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LD1502143789 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

The withdrawal of Soviet military units from Afghanistan was completed 15 February when Lieutenant General Boris Gromov crossed the Amu Darya River into the Soviet Union, TASS reported.

On the situation inside the country, Soviet Foreign Ministry official Vadim Perfilyev disclosed in remarks cited by Moscow radio that some 15,000 rebels are concentrated around Jalalabad, while about twice that number are besieging Kabul.

He reaffirmed claims that several thousand Pakistani militiamen are also operating inside Afghanistan and that "major forces" of the Pakistan Army are "accumulating" near the Afghan border.

Nevertheless, the food situation in Kabul is being "normalized," he said, noting that 150 tankers have arrived with fuel and other essential supplies.

Perfilyev added that around 300 other vehicles were approaching Kabul along the Salang highway.

Reporting on the military situation, Kabul radio announced that "criminal extremists" fired two missiles at the capital 14 February, killing four children and one adult.

The victims were queuing to buy bread when one of the missiles landed nearby.

The radio also claimed that the Afghan Armed Forces killed over 70 "terrorists" in recent clashes throughout the country.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, chairman of the seven-party mujahidin alliance, boycotted the 14 February session of the shura (consultative council) in Rawalpindi to protest the rejection of his proposal to give 100 seats to the factions based in Iran, AFP reported.

All 60 representatives of Mojaddedi's group stayed away from the meeting, and he issued a statement asserting that the shura is "incomplete" without the Shi'ite factions.

The shura was again adjourned without formulating an agenda, AFP noted.

In another development in Pakistan, visiting Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri discussed the Afghanistan issue during talks with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, IRNA reported.

Both sides stressed the need to strengthen unity among the Afghan mujahidin factions.

Bhutto also accepted an invitation to visit Tehran.

Iran

A government statement signed by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi declared 15 February a national day of mourning in connection with the publication in the United States of Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses," Tehran radio reported.

Condemning the publication of the book as a "dirty U.S. trick," the statement urged "Hezbollah cells" in the Islamic world to take "necessary measures" to "neutralize this plot."

The statement also expressed "congratulations and condolences" to families of those killed by "bullets fired from suspicious weapons" during recent protests against the United States "in an Islamic country."

Among other comment on the issue, President 'Ali Khamene'i called for the "revolutionary execution" of Rushdie, according to IRNA.

The agency described Rushdie as an "apostate" who earns his living as a "professional slanderer" and cited Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi's description of him as a "CIA stooge."

In another development, Information Minister Mohammad Reyshahri announced that the judiciary has decided on a "heavy" sentence for imprisoned Briton Roger Cooper, adding that a final ruling in this case will be issued shortly, according to IRNA.

Another government minister cited by the agency contrasted the "humane" treatment received by Cooper with the "brutality" allegedly suffered by an Iranian prisoner in London.

Meanwhile, another 68 drug traffickers were hanged in cities throughout Iran, according to IRNA.

Lebanon

A Lebanese Army communique broadcast by Beirut radio announced that 6 soldiers were killed and 14 wounded during clashes with "gunmen" in the East Beirut area 14-15 February.

Voice of Lebanon radio broadcast an appeal by Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr for an immediate cease-fire in the "bloody battle" being waged by the "hostile brothers."

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the fighting between the Army and Lebanese Forces (LF) militia began when Army military police kidnapped LF personnel and opened fire at an LF position.

An LF statement carried by the radio accused the Army of continuing the fighting despite the LF's willingness to cease fire.

The LF also appealed to soldiers to point their weapons "in the opposite direction," stressing that the Army Command is leading its men to a goal contrary to that for which they enlisted.

Radio Free Lebanon also reported that two civilians were killed by artillery fire on East Beirut from Army positions, while five others were killed by a missile fired from Syrian positions.

A Beirut radio report on the fighting in East Beirut stated that the Army has captured several areas from the LF.

The radio also noted that Syrian forces deployed in the southern suburb of Beirut 15 February in accordance with the security plan.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi, Bendjedid Comment on Tunis Visit

LD1402163888 Tripoli JANA in English 1453 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Nawwar [February] 14 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived in sisterly Tunisia at 8:20 p.m. yesterday.

They were officially received spearheaded by President Ben Ali of Tunisia. Also participating in his welcome were the Tunisian premier, the speaker of parliament, cabinet members, the general representative of Great al-Jamahiriyah and the ambassador of sisterly Algeria in Tunis.

The leader of revolution and President Bendjedid were warmly embraced by President Ben Ali on getting off the plane. His welcome expressed the spirit of brotherhood among the brothers in Great Al-Jamahiriyah, Tunisia and Algeria.

After playing the national anthems of Tunisia and Algeria, the leader of revolution, President Bendjedid and President Ben Ali inspected the guards of honour.

Earlier yesterday afternoon, the leader of revolution and President Bendjedid left the Defiance Gulf municipality to sisterly Tunisia. This comes within the context of the continuing meetings among the leaders of Arab Maghreb countries to strenghten the strenuous efforts to build an Arab borderless Maghreb to achieve the overall Arab unity.

Commenting to pressmen, the leader of revolution says: I am happy on meeting my brother, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and other brothers in Tunisia in the presence of President Chadli Bendjedid. While we are heading towards the Maghreb summit, we pin our hope on it to lay down a solid base to be the cornerstone for the unity of Arab Maghreb as a step towards the road of the overall Arab unity in a bid to build a force (?and resist) the challenges and liberate Palestine, apart from achieving social justice, progress and prosperity for the toiling masses who reap only backwardness from regionalism.

The leader of revolution points out that he is happy to meet the brothers in the land of the 7th November which merits this visit and this meeting, for the 7th November has paved the way for Arab unity. We, he adds, feel today that we are one family. An hour ago, we were in Misratah. Now we are in Tunisia. Tomorrow, we will be in Oran and after that in Marrakech.

He points out that this move in itself is an achievement of unity. It is an elimination of the borders and a stamping on the artificial borders created by colonialization.

Concluding his comments, he says that we are one people and one homeland. We regard this move as extraordinary. It is a historic move. We are at home now with our dear brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

President Chadli Bendjedid, commenting to pressmen, says: "I am pleased to be in Tunisia and to meet my brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali especially while we are heading for a very important meeting represented in the Maghreb summit. Our peoples are looking forward for its results with close attention. Undoubtedly, we will do our uppermost to be up to the good opinion of our Arab nation masses. [sentence as received]

He adds that we with God's help [words indistinct] forward in building the Maghreb we aspire for for a time. Such a Maghreb is aspired for by the generations of independence. They work for building it.

We make every endeavour to achieve this hoping that the Marrakech meeting will be successful.

Earlier yesterday afternoon, the leader of revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid left the Defiance Gulf municipality on their way to sisterly Tunisia. This comes in the context of the continuing meetings among the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries to strengthen the continuing efforts to build a borderless Arab Maghreb to realize the comprehensive Arab unity.

2d Mahgreb Summit Opening Postponed to 16 Feb

LD1502093889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] It has been learned from an informed source in Marrakech that the official opening of the second Maghreb summit has been postponed until tomorrow.

It was reported that this postponement will allow Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II to acquaint himself with the discussions between the presidents of Algeria, Libya and Tunisia during the past few days in Libya on how to establish the Greater Arab Maghreb.

No agenda has yet been announced for this summit, which is the second after the one held last June in Algeria.

Reportage on Amman Quadripartite Economic Talks

Visiting Officials Arrive

JN1402123489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Amman today to take part in the meetings of the prime ministers of Jordan,

Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR, which will begin this afternoon to discuss the detailed structure of the quadripartite Arab grouping. It will be open to all Arab countries and is meant to bolster Arab economic cooperation and coordination on international economic coalitions.

Sidqi, 'Abd al-Ghani, and Ramadan were received at the airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; the ministers; senior civil and military officials; and the ambassadors of Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR in Amman.

Upon arrival, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi made a press statement in which he said: Any Arab grouping will undoubtedly strengthen the Arab stand and the Arab people's historic unity movement. Any economic unity must have an influence on politics. He added: By establishing this grouping, we do not aim to build an axis or a coalition. What proves this is that this grouping is open to all Arab states which wish to join it.

In a statement to journalists upon arrival, YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani expressed delight for visiting Jordan and meeting with his brothers, the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. He said: The Amman meetings will discuss the basic law for the Arab economic grouping, which will then be approved by the leaders of these states during their next meeting in Baghdad.

He said: The quadripartite grouping is a step forward on the path of uniting Arabs in the interest of our states and Arab peoples.

In a press statement upon arrival, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: The Arab grouping is a serious step, and probably for the first time, on the path of bringing about the success of common Arab action, which suffered from sluggishness during the past 30 years. This grouping is a correct, sound, and strong step on the path of common Arab action, especially since we consider it an Arab grouping, not a regional one or an axis. It is open for other Arab states when the circumstances and readiness to join in exist.

Ramadan said: One cannot separate the economic and political aspects. Therefore, we consider our start a correct one because, for the first time and in contrast to previous Arab unity experiences, the emphasis is first placed on the economic aspect as a broad base. This will naturally reflect on the political aspect, although the level of political relations—from consultations and coordination—among the four states is distinguished, particularly during the past 10 years. He expressed the opinion that this grouping will confirm this consultation and coordination.

Eqypt's Sidqi Makes Statement

JN1402130889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Amman—Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Amman today to take part in the meetings of the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR, which will begin this afternoon to discuss the detailed structure of the quadripartite Arab grouping, which will be open to all the Arab countries, to bolster Arab economic cooperation and to coordinate on the international economic coalitions [passage omitted]

Asked about the fate of the joint bilateral committees, which link the grouping's states, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi said: They will continue their work for the time being until the first steps toward establishing the grouping are taken and coordination and integration processes are completed.

Regarding the features of the basic law of the grouping, the Egyptian prime minister said: Regardless of the names, there is almost total agreement on the need for a higher council comprising the countries' leaders, a ministerial council comprising the prime ministers, and a general secretariat for conducting daily work and implementing the resolutions of the higher council.

There will also be various committees to follow up the the council's work, which will be discussed at the Amman meetings. What is important is the establishment of the council's higher bodies. Asked about the proposed headquarters of the council, he said: Egypt proposes its establishment in Amman [passaage omitted]

King Receives Participants

JN1402152589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Court today Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Egyptian prime minister; Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister; and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister, who arrived in Amman today to continue discussion on the basic law of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Sidqi, Ramadan, and 'Abd al-Ghani conveyed to his majesty the greetings of Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Saddam Husayn, and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser.

The guests, the members of the delegations, and those attending the meeting had lunch with his majesty the king.

'Aziz Makes Arrival Statement

JN1402185689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (WAKH)—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that what has recently happened between the Iraqi and Iranian sides in New York was merely a short meeting sponsored by the United Nations and that no in-depth discussion of any issue was held at that meeting.

In a press statement on his arrival in Amman today along with Taha Yasin Ramadan, 'Aziz said that Iraq had agreed on the UN secretary general's proposal to resume negotiations at the end of March and that Iran had also agreed on this proposal.

'Aziz added that the Iranian stand has not changed and that it has remained far from meeting the prerequisites for bringing about durable and comprehensive peace. The Iranian side continues to make allegations that have no basis in international law and that are not in harmony with the UN Charter and the principles enshrined in it. He said these allegations are not in harmony with the end result envisaged by the UN Security Council when it issued Resolution No 598.

'Aziz indicated that there is a clear hesitation in Iran's general political behavior. He said that the Iranian negotiator does not look fully ready to reach the required agreements to bring about a durable and comprehensive peace.

AL-RA'Y Interviews 'Aziz

JN1502091089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Feb 89 pp 1, 16

[By Rabab Mangu and Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—Tariq 'Aziz has affirmed that the Arab grouping council is established on a pan-Arab, not geographical basis, and that it is of an Arab nature, and is open to any Arab country that is in line with it and has a desire to join it. He also affirmed that Amman would be the headquarters of the council.

Asked by AL-RA'Y following the first session of talks last night if the door of the grouping is open to all Arab countries regardless of their ideologies and political lines, 'Aziz said: One of the main provisions of the grouping's plan says that the grouping is not closed or based on purely geographical or political considerations like the "Arab Maghreb Union", which is impossible for Sudan or Iraq, for example, to join.

He added: "It is clear that the grouping is not based on unified political systems—a fact which asserts that the basis is the pan-Arab trend toward Arab solidarity and economic and cultural cooperation."

'Aziz also said: "The strong economic relations, which have been continuing among Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and the YAR for 10 years, and the political positions among these countries toward the fateful regional and international issues such as the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestine question have been placed within the framework of this council. This is a natural move."

He added: "No country maintaining a political conflict with the grouping can belong to it."

Asked by a reporter on Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi's statements that Syria may enter into the grouping, 'Aziz denied any knowledge of this issue.

Regarding some media reports on the attempts to enable Syria to join the grouping, He said: "Syria did not participate in these efforts from the beginning and there are no attempts to enable it to join the grouping because Syria originally did not maintain relations with Iraq and Egypt."

Regarding the grouping's weight and its contribution to reactivating the Arab economy, he affirmed that the Arab countries of the Arab grouping council are relatively the most advanced in the region. He added: "The four countries are advanced in terms of production as they have produtive energies, raw materials, specialized cadres in the various productions sectors, and advanced educational systems. Therefore, they are considered the most advanced in the region."

Regarding the Iraq-Iran talks on the cease-fire and achieving a lasting and comprehensive peace, he explained that the talks will resume late March or early April. He also said that Iran's future plans are unknown, although it observes the cease-fire. He said: "The progress of the talks depends on whether Iran is ready to establish a lasting and comprehensive peace with Iraq and in the region. We have realized that Iran is not ready for a lasting and comprehensive peace, but is committed to the cease-fire.

Asked about the fate of the Iraqi POW's and efforts to release them, he said the POW's should not be used as a political bargaining card. He added: "It is Iran which continues to keep the POW's, adhering to excuses that conflict with international norms. Iran also uses the issue as a political bargaining card and as means of political pressure. As a result, the Iranians will be morally and legally responsible for continuing to hold the POW's.

He added: "Iraq supports the need to release the POW's immediately after the cease-fire."

Al-Rifa'i Addresses Session

JN1402204289 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held a meeting at noon today with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi, YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, and Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and Iraqi first deputy prime minister. During the meeting, which lasted awhile, they discussed the structures of the basic law of the Arab economic grouping.

The meetings of the prime ministers of the states of the Arab economic grouping began in Amman this evening. These states are the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Yemen Arab Republic.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting in which he welcomed the delegations and their heads to Amman, the capital of Husayn, in the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Jordanian Arab people.

The prime minister said that this meeting completes the efforts begun by the four states to formulate the basic law representing the concepts of their leaders. This concept is based on establishing a solid nucleus and firm bases for cooperation and solidarity. We were guided by these bases and the hopes of our people, by our nation's experiences, and by the sound beginning we achieved in economic cooperation on a bilateral level. We have taken sure steps so far toward establishing a joint structure to develop the resources of our countries and find new horizons for Arab cooperation and pan-Arab action on every level.

Zayd al-Rifa'i added: This unified pan-Arab action and positive cooperation is preparing the bases of power for our Arab nation and cultivating the elements of strength in the form of huge human, material, and spiritual resources at our disposal. This has always been His Majesty King Husayn's line of thought and the scientific line of thought. He wants to lead the nation out of the labyrinth of fragmentation and division and onto the road of cooperation, construction, and integration in order to establish the Arab life of positive solidarity based on a knowledge of the facts of this age.

The prime minister indicated that the successes we have already achieved in bilateral work are the preparatory stage and solid groundwork for the monument whose foundation stones we have decided to set. This is what makes us optimistic about finding a more developed formulation for cooperation among our four countries.

He continued: In an age when the whole world tends toward cooperative organizations through economic or regional groupings and in which education, the flow of information, exchanges of experience, and integration of efforts form the web of international relations and the basis for progress, we look to a developed stage of constructive cooperation. We proceed from gathering our resources, capacities, and experiences and realizing the interests of our peoples and the aspirations of our nation.

The prime minister concluded: In Husayn's Amman, which prides itself on being a staunch fortress of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, the people today are very proud to host your meeting—a blessed start to this true Arab grouping. Allow me to take this opportunity to greet you in the name of His Majesty King Husayn, God bless him, and in the name of the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Through you, I would also like to greet the Arab people in the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the YAR. This good march, which grew and materialized in the minds of our leaders, received its strength and determination from the faith of our people and their response to the aspirations of their leaderships until they reached what we aspire to achieve today.

The meetings were attended on the Jordanian side by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Khalid al-Haj Hasan, minister of transportation and communications; Hanna 'Awdah, finance minster; Hani al-Khasawinah, minister of information; and Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of supply.

On the Egyptian side, the meetings were attended by Kamal al-Janzuri, minister of planning; Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, minister of transport and communications; Jamal al-Sayyid, minister of state for war production; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, minister of industry; Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Ahmad Radwan, advisor and secretary general of the Prime Ministry; and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

On the Iraqi side, the meetings were attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, minister of transport and communications; Muhammad Mahdi Salih al-Rawi, minister of trade; Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Widad 'Ajjam, chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

On the YAR side, the meetings were attended by 'Abd al-Karim 'Ali al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ahmad Hasan ibn Hasan and 'Abd al-Ilah al-Khamiri from the Foreign Ministry; and the YAR ambassador in Amman.

Group Endorses Charter

JN1502080889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Feb 89 pp 1, 2

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat]

[Excerpts] Amman—The prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, and North Yemen and the first deputy premier of Iraq met here Tuesday to endorse a charter for a new economic group named the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC). The group of four will be formally declared by the heads of state of the four Arab countries at a mini-summit in Baghdad Thursday.

Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i opened the meeting with a speech in which he said the establishment of the economic group represented "a strong nucleus and a solid base for cooperation and solidarity among Arab states." [passage omitted]

Jordanian officials said the aim of the council was to establish economic unity between its members as an important preparatory step towards eventual political unity.

Officials quoted in the local press said Monday that the ACC's draft charter stipulated that the four countries would strive to achieve economic integration. They said that priority in trade would be given to the products of member states and that each country would minimize inter-state competition.

The council would also establish a central importation committee in order to get lower prices for imports.

Petra said the council would work towards strengthening economic ties between the four, boost trade and tourism, promote freer movement of goods and labor, set up joint ventures and increase exports and investments.

The Jordanian officials said the council intends to gradually lower customs and tariff walls and reduce bureaucratic procedures. They would also gradually impose customs fees on imported goods from outside the council.

The officials said the ACC plans to develop transport cooperation to facilitate trade exchange. The council plans to establish a maritime line linking the Red Sea with the Mediterranean from the Alexandria port in Egypt to North Yemen, passing through the port of Al-'Aqabah in the Red Sea. They will also merge the four national airlines, according to the sources, which requested anonymity.

They said there was a plan to set up a regional fund, similar to the European Fund for Regional Development, with the purpose of balancing the distribution of money from rich areas to poor areas in member states.

The council also intends to draw up strategies for dealing with other regional and international economic groups, particularly the European Community.

Officials said North Yemen had already suggested a project for the electrification of its rural areas, to be carried out with Jordanian, Eyptian and Iraqi expertise and technical assistance. [passage omitted]

Paper Interviews Al-Qasim

JN1502095089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Feb 89 p 7

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by SAWT AL-SHA'B reporters Sulayman al-Barmawi, Faysal al-Shubul, Sa'd al- Silawi, and 'Abd Rabbuh Hawajirah in Amman—date not given]

[Text] [Question] How did the idea of the quadripartite Arab economic grouping come into existence in the presence of the Gulf and Arab Maghreb groupings?

[Al-Qasim] The idea of this grouping or council stemmed from the real work and the realistic benefit Jordan sensed in its bilateral relations with Iraq, Yemen, and Egypt, and in the practical areas of positive relations between Jordan and each of these states.

This grouping is not an axis or a step against any side in the greater Arab homeland; it is the outcome of a practical and positive relationship among these states. Therefore, this grouping is a center of gravity which we view objectively and which is practically aimed at serving these states and their peoples.

This grouping is open for the other Arab states to join when they feel they need to exchange benefit with it. Any grouping at this time in particular will pave the way for a better future for these states.

As you know, Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn were the first to bless the GCC when it was first established. Jordan also supported efforts to establish the Arab Maghreb union in North Africa. Such groupings express a state of solidarity among Arab states, which will certainly bring greater and more comprehensive benefit to member states.

[Question] Was the subject of Syria's participation in the grouping discussed during the Syrian prime minister's recent visit to Jordan?

[Al-Qasim] I believe that in the future there will be a chance for other states to join the grouping for mutual benefit. The grouping is not closed to any of the Arab brothers.

[Question] It is obvious that the grouping concentrates on the activities of the private sector in the member states, and there are Arab states which, according to their political systems, do not give a large role to the private sector. Does this mean that it would be impossible for such states to join the grouping?

[Al-Qasim] We believe that any sisterly country which tries to benefit from the grouping can prepare itself and set the stage for joining it. For instance, the PDRY expressed a desire and supported the grouping, but there is a minimum limit that should exisit before other Arab states can join the grouping.

[Question] Will there be a move on the international level to back this trend?

[Al-Qasim] The grouping has its reasons. We seek to deal with the world in the coming years and the possibility of unilateral cooperation with it will be difficult for these states no matter how strong and rich or poor they are. Therefore, such meetings or groupings will certainly give momentum to our contacts with the world. For instance, how shall we deal with Europe when it is united in 1992?

Shall we deal with it individually? Dealing with it in a collective manner is essential. Therefore, the new situation is essential for better performance in the service of our countries and peoples.

[Question] Will additional measures be taken to facilitate travel and exchange of goods among these states?

[Al-Qasim] We are now drafting the overall structure of the grouping. What is related to details and procedures hinge upon a timetable. What is important is that we act within a reality that will benefit those affiliated to this center of gravity. Therefore, any proposals to promote the areas of cooperation should be in the interest of all, and it is premature to predict details. However, with improved performance and enhanced joint relations, the grouping member states will certainly establish integrated industry, agriculture, marketing, and transportation among themselves.

For instance, when the Al-'Aqabah-Nuwaybi' line was opened, we believed it would be confined to Jordan and Egypt. But after some time we found that others might benefit from it, and sisterly Iraq did so. The Egyptian workers in Jordan and Iraq benefit from it and save about $70 million from traveling through this line which benefits Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq alike. This is the practical situation with which we are dealing. It is realistic, has positive results, and consolidates relations and ties. It is far from slogans and all benefit from it.

[Question] Was the grouping the result of a sudden idea or long preparation?

[Al-Qasim] Ideas were always presented at the bilateral summit meetings. These ideas are a reality from which we proceed to attain a better economic, social, and cultural situation.

[Question] The grouping has taken the quality of Arab comprehensiveness. Will it not annoy the other Arab groupings and is it open for all Arab states?

[Al-Qasim] We view these groupings as integrating one with another and we believe that the Arab brothers should support any attempt by one or more Arab state to improve performance in their countries for the benefit of the Arab nation.

[Question] The political will is always standing behind the economic decision, and we have recently noted the stumbling of the joint Arab action institutions. Has this been taken into consideration?

[Al-Qasim] We are dealing with a reality and building a relationship that is not immediate but gradual and in the interest of all. When we thought of this meeting, we found that it was the result of the absence of meetings and the absence of the results we wished to have from previous groupings, be they the Arab Economic Unity Council or others, because their branches were many and the political decision had to a certain extent influenced their performance, whereas here we proceed from purely economic relations aimed at improving the situation in every country.

[Question] What took place during the European delegation's recent visit to Jordan? Was the grouping discussed?

[Al-Qasim] The delegation wanted to acquaint itself with the Arab stands, which are in the final analysis one positive stand in support of the establishment of peace in the Middle East through an international peace conference attended by the Security Council five permanent member states and all concerned parties. What remains is that Israel should abide by the requirements of peace, which are the acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and its acceptance of the international conference to achieve the aspired peace.

We also briefed the delegation on efforts to establish an economic unity among Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Yemen. They fully understand such an issue, especially since Europe began to work for a better situation 40 years ago and managed to attain it. We have the ability and efficiency to meet and benefit more from the European Community, which has much experience.

Group Adopts Working Paper

JN1402191789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (INA)—The prime ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and YAR concluded a 3 and ½ hour first session of discussions a short time ago.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, said that the conferees adopted an Iraqi working paper presented to the Arab prime ministers.

The paper, he added, was comprehensive and rich in content. A thorough discussion of its contents was made in order to reach a unified formula to which everybody agrees.

It was agreed to form a quadripartite committee comprising the foreign ministers of the four countries to complete the discussion of some points in the Iraqi plan, Ramadan said.

He described the atmosphere of the first session as extremely cordial and reflecting the common understanding and the serious concern about finding an Arab economic nucleus for the sisterly Arab countries.

First Session Ends

JN1402201989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] At 2000 today, the first 4-hour working session of meetings of the prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and the YAR ended.

Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah said that the first working session was permeated by an atmosphere of seriousness, positivity, cooperation, and full understanding on the various issues discussed. He added that this full cooperation was the result of the comprehensive and careful study of this plan by the four states—the study which was completed some time ago.

He added: The prerequisites for the success of the plan are available, as this plan has come about to translate into action a continuous effort and a comprehensive coordination being undertaken by the four states, because this plan is using the positive aspects of the Arab unity experiences realized previously, and because it is using the experiences accumulated by the Arab nation while striving for unity.

The information minister added: The plan constitutes a grouping in the Arab region—a grouping that will have its own statutes and basic laws which will be announced to all. He affirmed that the plan would be a mainstay of support for the Arab world, for joint Arab action, and for everything Arab. The formation of this Arab grouping is an expression of the conviction of the four states that they belong to one nation. Hence, the door has been left open for remaining Arab states to join that grouping.

He emphasized that this grouping is wider in scope than bilateral committees, as it would cover all aspects of cooperation between the four states and because it is a united event and experience. Therefore, he said, it is more comprehensive in its specialties and objectives than bilateral joint committees.

The information minister pointed out that the prime ministers of the Arab states attending the meetings will hold at a later time tonight their second and final session of talks to approve the final draft of the basic law of the grouping which will be submitted to the heads of these states at the quadripartite summit which will be held in Baghdad, as the name of the grouping and its headquarters will be announced during that summit.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held at noon today a meeting with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; YAR Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani; and Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister. During the meeting which lasted for a while, they discussed the arrangements involving the preparation of the basic law governing the Arab economic grouping.

Amman TV Interviews 'Aziz

JN1402211089 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Interview with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Samar Dahmash in Amman on 14 February—recorded]

[Text] [Dahmash] Sir, have you decided on a final draft or a framework for the proposed ACC [Arab Cooperation Council]?

['Aziz] We almost finished the draft, and this draft is going to be reviewed by the prime ministers. And we hope to finish this night.

[Dahmash] Could we know what are the main issues that you have tackled?

['Aziz] Well, I think in the last few days the leaders of the four countries have made a number of statements explaining the nature of this agreement. This is an agreement of cooperation, coordination, and solidarity between the four countries. This agreement is a practical and normal result of a long cooperation between the four countries on bilateral bases. Now, we are bringing this cooperation, coordination, and solidarity within a joint framework between the four countries.

The main theory in this agreement is that we have to be practical, pragmatic, and serious and work hard to build upon each step we make in accordance with the conditions, with the circumstances—the economic circumstances and the other circumstances—in the field of cooperation between the four countries.

[Dahmash] Are you expecting other Arab countries to join in?

['Aziz] Not immediately, not immediately. But the agreement is very clear in this respect, saying that all Arab countries or any Arab country which wants to join this agreement is welcome.

[Dahmash] Do you think this alliance is going to be successful in this particular economic situation in the region?

['Aziz] Well, as I said, there has been a lot of cooperation in the economic field between the four countries. Now, more coordination, more cooperation in this field is going to strengthen the economic situation in the four countries and strengthen their position in dealing with regional international groupings, which we need. We have to take into consideration that the whole world is moving into regional continental groupings. And we could be in a better position to cooperate and to make deals with those groupings after the creation of this new organization.

[Dahmash] Where does politics fit in this alliance?

['Aziz] Well, as I said, the main theory in this agreement is to be practical, pragmatic, and to build upon each step we reach. In the political field, for the last few years, the four countries have been in almost full agreement about the major political issues. So it is natural that we have a good political understanding. But we did not emphasize the political aims because first of all they are there. We share the same aims, but we need to consolidate and develop our economic cooperation and cooperation in

other important fields like culture, education, communication, transportation, all these fields which are very vital to the development of our countries.

Grouping's Final Session Ends

JN1502065589 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The prime ministers of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and North Yemen ended their talks in Amman today by endorsing the basic draft document to set up the new four-nation Arab economic grouping. The Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah told the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, that the Prime Minister Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i addressed the closing session, thanking the Egyptian, Iraqi, and North Yemen prime ministers for their efforts.

Mr al-Rifa'i expressed Jordan's pride in this pan-Arab endeavor, which would encourage hopes for future cooperation whose benefit would not be limited to the four countries but to the whole Arab nation. The minister said that the Iraqi First Deputy Premier Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed the satisfaction of his country's delegation of the new formula of cooperation which the Arabs would welcome. He thanked his majesty the king for sponsoring the meetings.

The North Yemen Prime Minister Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani said he hoped the new economic grouping would be a correct step forward. Also addressing the final session was the Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who commended the new grouping, voicing his satisfaction of its level and the great goals it envisaged for the service of the Arab nation. He said the four countries' delegations, which took part in the Amman meeting, will leave today for Baghdad to attend the meetings of the heads of state of the four countries, who would endorse the new draft agreement.

Egypty's Al-Baz on Grouping

JN1502070689 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Egyptian presidential political adviser, Dr Usamah al-Baz, has said that agreement to set up the Arab Cooperation Council, the ACC, will be approved by each of the four countries' constitutions. He voiced hope that the new step would add to pan-Arab action because the grouping was not intended to be an axis or a rival to existing Arab groupings but was open to all Arab countries.

Mr al-Baz told reporters after the first session last night that he hoped the grouping would boost the Arab League and serve as an example for cooperation among Arab countries. He said the ACC would have a higher council of heads of state and council of prime ministers.

Participants Depart for Baghdad

JN1502112889 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb

[Text] His majesty the king left today for Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi President Mr Saddam Husayn to take part in the four-nation summit. His majesty was accompanied by the Prime Ministers of the economic group Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i of Jordan, Dr 'Atif Sidqi of Egypt, Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, the first deputy prime minister of Iraq, and the Prime Minister of North Yemen Mr 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al- Ghani.

His majesty the king was seen off at the airport by his royal highness the crown prince and senior civil and military officials. Earlier his royal highness the crown prince was sworn in as regent.

The Jordanian delegation accompanying his majesty the king comprises Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the chief of the Royal Court; his majesty's political adviser Mr 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Mr 'Amir Khammash, his majesty's private adviser; Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Mr Marwan al-Qasim, the foreign minster; and Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, the minister of information.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Shevardnadze Expected To Meet in Baghdad

LD1402185289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, has received a message from the Soviet leadership. The message was described as important, in spite of the fact that nothing was mentioned about its contents.

WAFA announced today that the Soviet ambassador in Tunis handed the message to Mr Yasir 'Arafat during a meeting last night.

It is noteworthy that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who yesterday in Moscow received the chairman of the International Jewish Congress, stressed the necessity of urgent steps to prepare for an international peace conference on the Middle East. This subject will be the focus of Shevardnadze's tour, during the last week of this month, of four Middle East countries. It is expected that he will meet Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Baghdad during the Soviet minister's visit there 22-25 February.

'Arafat Receives 'Important Message' From USSR

LD1502121889 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, 15/2/89 (APS)—The PLO Executive Committee president, Yasir 'Arafat received an important message from the Soviet leadership, the Palestinian information agency "WAFA" indicated.

The Soviet foreign affairs minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, who had talks on Monday in Moscow with the president of the World Jewish Congress, stressed the necessity to take measures to impose peace in the Middle-East, it is recalled. The tour that Shevardnadze will pay during the last week of February in four countries of the Middle East and during which he will meet the Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat probably in Baghdad where he will stay from 23 to 25 February is to enable the relaunch of the peace process in the Middle-East, it was indicated.

'Arafat Reportedly To Attend Hirohito Funeral

JN1102173489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Tunis—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will, for the first time, make a visit to Japan before the end of this month, February, during which he will attend the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito.

Palestinian sources in Tunis asserted that during this visit, 'Arafat will meet with a number of Arab and foreign heads of state who will attend the funeral.

Hurani: PLO To Resume Anti-Israeli Operations

JN1502114489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani has stressed that the PLO intends to resume its operations against Israel even if these operations arouse U.S. doubts about the PLO's desire for peace. He added that U.S. remarks, which cast doubt on the PLO's credibility and desire for peace, will not make the PLO change its policy toward armed struggle.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had earlier stated that the Palestinian resistance operations against civil and military targets inside or outside Israel create problems for the United States.

'Abd Rabbuh on PLO-U.S. Talks, Syria

JN1402200989 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Feb 89 pp 1, 18

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh has stated that the U.S. position is an obstacle to convening the second session of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, 'Abd Rabbuh described the U.S. position as extremely ambiguous on the issue of the dialogue with the PLO.

'Abd Rabbuh explained that all of this is taking place under the pretext that the new administration is re-evaluating its policies, especially with regard to the dialogue.

'Abd Rabbuh noted that the PLO does not view the dialogue as an end in itself and is of the opinion that the United States should play a positive role in the Middle East peace process. He said that the yardstick by which this role is measured is the U.S. position on the Palestinian people's national rights, especially the independent state; its position on an effective international conference with PLO participation; and its position on ending the U.S. political protection of the crimes and terrorism of the Israeli occupiers.

'Abd Rabbuh asked the new U.S. Administration to adopt clear stands toward all these major issues in any future session of dialogue. He added that if a clear U.S. position on these issues is not forthcoming, the dialogue will be a means of stalling for time and will be a U.S. attempt to spread illusions about changing its policy.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, the Palestinian official did not rule out a Palestinian-Syrian meeting on the highest level, whether in Damascus or any other Arab capital, either through a bilateral meeting or within a joint Arab meeting. 'Abd Rabbuh did not elaborate on this subject but emphasized the PLO desire to establish ties with Syria, pointing out that the PLO has always voiced a desire to establish such relations.

'Abd Rabbuh also said that the PLO has already called for a meeting of all the states in the confrontation and the PLO to coordinate stands toward the international conference and discuss all issues related to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Palestinian Official on PLO-Syrian Relations

JN1202171289 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Feb 89 pp 1, 19

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Excerpt] Tunis—A ranking Palestinian official has affirmed that the PLO insists on Syria's recognition of the independent Palestinian state before any talks between the two sides. In a statement to AL-BAYAN, the Palestinian official added that two countries have been mediating for several days between Syria and the PLO and that Syria voiced readiness to hold high-level talks with the PLO. He also said that Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union are exerting great efforts to normalize Palestinian-Syrian relations.

Asked whether Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar''s statements during the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis are viewed as a recognition of the Palestinian state, the PLO Executive Committee member, who asked not to be identified, said that these statements do not constitute recognition. He added that the PLO had not accepted Egypt's interpretation following the declaration of the independent Palestinian state—an interpretation which was stronger and more clear than Al-Shar''s statements.

During its meetings, which ended in Tunis yesterday, the PLO expressed its satisfaction with the progress of Palestinian-Arab relations, stressing the importance of a comprehensive Arab recognition of the independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

PLO Envoy to Algiers Comments on 'Uprising'

LD1102114189 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 11/2/89 (APS)—The ambassador of the Palestinian state to Algiers Abu al-'Izz, here said that the popular uprising reaffirmed to the international opinion that it is not a sentimental revolution or a reaction to a given event, but that it is the uprising of a people having lost hope after the failure of the peaceful ways and of a settlement through the UN or the superpowers.

Al-'Izz, said that the "Palestinian people, lost hope before intransigence of Israel which is carrying on its Zionist practices is denying the Palestinian people's political and national rights". In a declaration to the press the ambassador pointed out that "the terrorist methods of the Zionist authorities against the Palestinian masses have never been experienced by any other people nowadays. He also added: "The failure of the Zionist attempts to stifle the uprising confirm once more that the uprising is the result of a political division taken at the highest level of the Palestinian people.

Al-'Izz, said that depite those practices, the Palestinian people proposed a settlement, rejected by Israel which proposed other settlements aiming at perpetuating occupation".

Concerning the American stand toward this issue, Al-'Izz noted "If the USA wants to be credible, it should recognize the right to self determination to the Palestinian people. It is only with that, that peace could be reached, otherwise, the uprising will be carried on until the triumph of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

PLO To Demand International Force in Territories

LD1102220789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, Feb 11 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official was quoted here Saturday as saying the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, would demand the dispatching of international or multi-national forces to occupied Palestine to replace Zionist troops and allow for free elections.

Interviewed by the Tunisian daily "AL-SAHAFAH", published today, PLO chairman's information adviser Bassam Abu Sharif believes that sending such forces to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the only conducive way to put an end to Israeli crimes and would avail the Palestinian people to freely speak out their views (?and elect) their leaders without pressure, terrorism or occupation.

Answering a question of how he views prospects of the PLO-U.S. dialogue, he said the negotiations between the two sides were going ahead through continuous contacts between the U.S. ambassador and the PLO representative in Tunis and through several other indirect consultations.

"We hope these continued contacts would produce positive results that could contribute to achieving a just and permanent peace in the Middle East," Abu Sharif told the Tunisian daily.

He said he was optimistic that the PLO-American dialogue would "proceed on the right course that would lead to Washington's recognition of the Palestinian people's right of self-determination."

PLO Executive Committee Discusses 'Uprising'

LD1102213189 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tunis, 11/2/89 (APS)—The PLO Executive Committee met here under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, to examine the explosive situation in Palestinian occupied territories, following the serious escalation of the "iron fist policy" waged by the Zionist authorities of occupation against the children of the intifidah [uprising], official Palestinian sources indicated. According to PLO spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, the PLO Executive Committee will take the necessary measures to consolidate the resistance of the Palestinian people in occupied territories and reinforce their intifidah in front of the escalation of the Zionist repression which made in January alone 33 martyrs, 1500 wounded and 3000 arrests among the Palestinians. The toll of the Zionists exactions became heavier since orders given by the Tel Aviv government to Israeli soldiers to shoot without warning on all Palestinian demonstrators.

The committee must set up, according to 'Abd Al-Rahman, an action programme on the international scene in order to put an end to Zionist exactions.

In addition, a large scale Arab diplomatic action is scheduled for the second half of February in order to ask the international community, mainly permanent members of the UN Security Council, to use their influence in order to make Israel respect international conventions on populations living under occupation and conform to international law for a settlement of the Middle-East crisis, it was indicated.

Moreover, the PLO Executive Committee must also assess the results of contacts between European countries and PLO mainly since the talks Arafat had on January 27 in Madrid with foreign ministers of Spain, France and Greece, 'Abd Al-Rahman indicated.

The committee was also due to examine the role expected from Europe.

Hawatimah on Moscow Talks, Provisional Government
JN0202204089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
1 Feb 89 p 27

[Salam Musafir dispatch from Moscow]

[Text] Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah has described his current visit to the Soviet capital as the first visit by a Palestinian leadership delegation to Moscow this year, and the first since the Palestinian resolutions were issued by the PNC during its extraordinary session, the session of the uprising, which was held in Algiers.

In an interview with AL-ANBA', the senior Palestinian official said that this in itself expresses the degree of mutual trust and credibility that results from the long historic experience of familiarity between the DFLP and the Soviets to resolve the Middle East crisis and its crux, the Palestinian question, on the basis of repatriation, self-determination, the establishment of the independent state of Palestine, and the evacuation of the occupiers from Arab territories.

Hawatimah, who yesterday concluded a series of meetings and talks with the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Foreign Ministry, added: The PNC resolutions have reflected the degree of accuracy with which the DFLP held its talks in Moscow 12-20 October 1988, 3 weeks before the convening of the PNC.

Hawatimah said: The newspaper AL-ANBA' had the lead in knowing the proceedings of these talks. What AL-ANBA' published was fully identical to the PNC resolutions. In an interview with the newspaper at that time, I said that the November resolutions will constitute three connected rings—the proclamation of the establishment of the Palestinian state; the political statement determining the legal framework for the comprehensive solution, which is the international conference; and the establishment of the foundations for the provisional government. This has actually happened and has created a comprehensive political turning point in the world that led to the improvement of the Western European stand toward the understanding of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the representative status of the PLO and created clear pressure on the United States to open a dialogue with the PLO. Also, the continuity of the uprising and the resolutions of the Algiers session have forced Washington to retreat and open dialogue. The resolutions of the Algiers session have also created a major change within U.S. society.

The Palestinian official told AL-ANBA' that the DFLP delegation's talks in Moscow dealt with a number of important issues and concentrated on the steadfastness of the uprising for 14 continuous months and the resolutions issued by the Algiers session. He said: The Soviet side has affirmed to us their support for the uprising against all U.S. and Israeli pressures to stop it under the slogans of calm or the new U.S. slogan—stopping mutual violence between the Palestinian and Israelis. Occupation is the origin of the bloody violence to which the Palestinian people are subjected, and the executioner and the victim cannot be placed on the scales of the same balance.

The Palestinian militant pointed out that the Soviet side cautioned against current maneuvers to crush the uprising and present an alternative leadership to the Unified National Leadership, referring to Western circles' attempts to activate a number of conservative figures at the expense of the Unified National Leadership.

Hawatimah said: The Soviets reiterated their adherence to the Palestinans' right to establish their state and to reach a just and comprehensive solution through an influential international conference with the participation of all parties and the five members of the Security Council. The Soviets also reiterated their categorical rejection of Washington-sponsored separate talks through a joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee, because this is an activation of the Camp David policy. This opposes the large-scale international will that seeks a comprehensive amd just solution.

Hawatimah added that the Soviets also rejects the formula of a mini-international conference recently called for by Shamir. This is because such a conference will annul the independent Palestinian representation as well as the influential international conference. Such a conference will also become an umbrella without any role. All this will take place under the slogan of a conference sponsored by the USSR and the United States only, thus annulling the role of the United Nations and the five members of the Security Council.

The Palestinian official noted that the Palestinian and Soviet sides—as affirmed through the talks with the front in Moscow—reject Rabin's proposal on holding municipal elections under the occupation as a prelude for autonomy, which is to be temporary. The two sides affirmed that all these plans mirror the continuation of American and Israeli pressures to impose separate solutions. He said that we reached full understanding with the Soviets on the need to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question. This matter calls for the quick embarkation on the work of the preparatory committee of the five permanent members of the Security Council in preparation for convening the UN-sponsored international conference with the participation of all parties to guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repatriation in accordance with UN resolutions, the evacuation of the occupation, and security and peace for all regional states.

Hawatimah noted that the Palestinian side discussed with the Soviets the importance of upgrading the PLO office in the USSR to the level of embassy of Palestine. The two sides greeted the initial agreement to form a Soviet-Palestinian coordination committee to discuss the Middle East crisis and the Palestine question from all its angles. The Soviet side affirmed its high appreciation

for the formation of the committee. The Soviet side also affirmed that the PNC resolutions adopted in the uprising session constitute the right basis for resolving the Palestine question and the Middle East crisis because they are based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy. They reiterated the independent representation of the PLO.

Hawatimah said: The DFLP delegation affirmed in the talks the complete rejection of Washington's pressures. The delegation also affirmed that the PLO will continue struggle in accordance with the PNC resolutions. The delegation warned against any retreat from them. It also warned that the American pressure aims at undermining the PLO policy and exposing the national unity to contradictions and problems. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising warned against this in Calls No 32 and 33 of 24 January.

Hawatimah disclosed that the Palestinian and Soviet sides have information that Washington still refuses to recognize the representative status of the PLO and the right to national independence of the Palestinian people. They also have information that Washington proposes the discussion of the Palestinian representation at a certain stage within the settlement on the basis of direct bilateral negotiations. This clearly means that the United States must develop its stand, not be satisfied with holding dialogue with the PLO, and recognize the representative status of the PLO as well as our people's right to self-determination and independence.

Hawatimah pointed out that the talks addressed the Palestinian state's government-in-exile, with the Palestinian side stressing that such a government should be formed along lines decided by the last PNC session and comprised of national figures committed to the PLO's program and based on political pluralism. It should also reflect national unity, and the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising must name the personalities who will be chosen from inside the occupied territory for the government to be an extension of the PLO and supervised by the Executive Committee and the Central Council. The government's political program must be founded on the independence declaration, the PLO's national program, and the Algiers PNC session's political statement. It should not be formed along lines urged by certain parties that would like an expanded government with an overwhelming majority of independents. This would curtail the role of the PLO factions and undermine the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising by keeping it from naming the members from inside the occupied land.

Hawatimah went on: The Palestinian side has noted that Washington's pressure to halt the uprising; "halt the mutual violence"; and revert to the formula of the joint Palestinian delegation, direct talks, nonrecognition of the representative status of the PLO, and promotion of independents as PLO substitutes fits in with Washington's drive to groom Palestinians for participation in the settlement. This recalls Washington's call to groom Al-Sadat's Egypt to participate in a solution by shaking up the country's economic and social infrastructure in line with American plans for a settlement. Thus came Camp David, 5 years after the glorious October war.

Hawatimah indicated that the Soviet side stressed that PLO unity and the development of the uprising underpin the political turnaround that the PNC resolutions have instigated globally. The Soviets have further emphasized that the formation of the provisional government is a matter for the Palestinians, and it is important that all PLO factions come to terms on that score. The timing is also up to the Palestinians.

Hawatimah said that the Soviets pointed out the need for Arab solidarity to speed up the convocation of the international conference. They cited the need to normalize relations between the PLO and Syria. The Soviets stressed the importance of PLO relations with the Arab countries whose territory is occupied, citing Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, which besides its historical ties with the Palestinian people has territory occupied by Israel—"Wadi 'Arabah and the northern Jordan Valley."

Replying to a question by AL-ANBA' about why the declaration of the Palestinian government is being put off, the Palestinian official said: It is common knowledge that we in the DFLP have striven for a combined announcement on the birth of the Palestinian state and the provisional government. Unanimous agreement was reached at the PNC session on the birth of the state, but none was reached on the lineup and timing of the government. The DFLP therefore proposed the five-point political project as the basis for the government. The PNC entrusted the Executive Committee with the functions of the provisional government pending its formation.

Hawatimah added: 10 days ago, the Palestinian leadership met with all the factions and personalities, with Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] joining in. During the discussions, three lines of thinking on the government emerged. The first wanted an expanded government comprised of independents to marginalize the role of Palestinian national unity emitomized by the PLO. It wanted the personalities from inside the occupied land to be named apart from the Unifed National Leadership of the Uprising in order for this government to be, as they put it, acceptable to Western circles.

Hawatimah added that the third line of thinking proposes the formation of a provisional government in accordance with the Algiers PNC resolution, the abidance by the political and organizational bases of this resolution, and the formation of the government from PLO factions and figures committed to the PLO program and the resolutions adopted by the session of the uprising. The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising will appoint figures from the occupied territories to

enhance its influence rather than encourage the formation of a parallel leadership comprising figures who are remote from the Unified Leadership and who have lagged behind with respect to the uprising's program of freedom and independence.

The third line of thinking, while is in harmony with the second in terms of its contents, believes that the time has not yet come to proclaim the Palestinian government. Those who adopt this line of thinking believe the appropriate time for this proclamation will be on the eve of the convocation of the international conference, to enable the government to assume the role of negotiator in this conference. We in the DFLP adopt the second line of thinking, as it is completely in line with the PNC resolutions. The PLO factions have assumed the burden of the struggle over the past 25 years and offered a large number of martyrs in defense of the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the right to an independent representation. This is so, while the first line of thinking leaves the door open to contradictions between the national coalition of which the PLO is formed and a government formed from independents. It also will create a contradiction between the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, which leads the uprising and which is entrusted with the lives of some 2 million Palestinians, and the Palestinian figures who are on the margin of the uprising such as Ilyas Frayj, Fayiz abu Rahmah, Hikmat al-Masri, Hanna Sinyurah, and Sari Nusaybah.

Hawatimah said: We also believe that the third line of thinking is not a sound stand because it calls for the postponment of the government until the international conference materializes. It is wrong to link the establishment of the government to the negogiations. For example, the Algerian provisional government was proclaimed at the same moment that the Algerian Republic was established in September 1958, while the negotiations with France began in 1961.

Hawatimah said: We believe that the provisional government must assume many tasks, the most important being to obtain a broader recognition of the Palestinian state. There are important countries that link their recognition to the existence of the government. Another task of the provisional government is to take charge of the affairs of the Palestinian state with the countries in the world and defend the uprising in international bodies against the policy of repression, mass extermination, and deportation. In addition, it will have to take charge of the interests of the Palestinian people in the diaspora on the basis of relations among equal states.

Hawatimah added: The proclamation of the provisional government will also double the pressure on the U.S. Administration to recognize the representative nature of the Palestinian state. The government is the government of the Palestinian state, and this is what the U.S. Administration persistently rejects. After he assumed power, Bush announced that he rejects the proclamation of the Palestinian state and its government. Bush announced that this is a unilateral proclamation that decides in advance political sovereignty over Palestinian territory. The United States, in letters to the PLO, says that Israel has the right to ask for the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the negotiations; the Palestinians, without any mention of the PLO, have the right to ask for the right to self-determination during the negotiations; and the United States will not adopt a stand that is biased to either of the two sides. Hawatimah added: But we know in advance that if the right to self-determination leads to an independent state, then the United States will oppose this right to self-determination.

Concluding his frank and important interview with AL-ANBA', Hawatimah said: We reject this U.S. grooming of the PLO and believe that the formation of a provisional government will prevent the United States from reactivating the formula of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Our talks in Moscow have made us sense that the Soviet side completely understands our proposals and stands.

Faysal al-Husayni: 'There Have To Be Two States'

AU1302163889 Vienna PROFIL in German 13 Feb 89 pp 44-45

[Interview with "Palestinian leader" Faysal al-Husayni by Henryk M. Broder in Jerusalem: "There Have To Be Two States in Palestine"—date not given]

[Text] PROFIL: Faysal al-Husayni, will you soon become minister of the Palestinian State?

Husayni (laughs): I do not think so. When we have our state, I will live in my house, work the land, and plant trees. I will continue my work in the Arab Studies Society and in the Human Rights Information Center. I will also see that human rights are respected in the Palestinian state.

PROFIL: And big politics?

Husayni: I am a soldier who serves his people. If my state needs me, I will be available.

PROFIL: Will this state soon become a reality?

Husayni: Within the next 1 to 3 years, I suppose.

PROFIL: Would you grant entry to Israelis?

Husayni: Of course we will. We will permit all Israelis to visit us, even those who are here now as soldiers. Where they were received with stones and Molotov cocktails, they will be welcome, provided they come as guests. We do not want them as occupiers.

PROFIL: You spent 18 of the past 21 months in prison. What is it that makes you so dangerous for Israel?

Husayni: I would like to know that myself. The Israelis told me that there are secret files containing evidence against me. When I was arrested for the first and second times, I was told that I was the leader of the Fatah of Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip; however, I was never shown any evidence against me. When I was arrested a third time, they said I was the leader of Fatah in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Then I asked them: Why did you take the Gaza Strip away from me? They laughed. At my most recent arrest, last July, they gave me back Gaza.

PROFIL: You were arrested 2 days after you addressed a rally held by Peace Now. The sponsors said that you were arrested because of your speech, in which you supported a solution with two states—a Palestinian State side by side with the State of Israel. Do you also think that this was the reason?

Husayni: Yes. I was arrested twice after I had talks with the Israelis. One occasion was a meeting with Moshe Amirav. (Footnote) (Member of the government party, Likud, expelled from the party because of his contacts with Palestinians.) There are people in Israel who do not want to hear of a possible solution to the conflict and of Palestinians who are ready for such a solution. We are to remain the enemies who want to destroy Israel. Thus, the Israeli soldier sent to the occupied areas knows what he is fighting for and why he has to shoot at Palestinians. If we want to destroy him, then he is right when he shoots at us. However, if this soldier is told that we support a peaceful solution and that we want to live with him and his family, and side by side with his state, then he would ask himself: What the hell am I doing here?

PROFIL: What about the old dream of a democratic, secular state in all of Palestine?

Husayni: I still have this dream. However, I know very well that it is nothing but a dream. I know that the Israelis will never give up their state and will never leave the country.

PROFIL: What has made you draw this conclusion?

Husayni: Let us assume that we succeed in defeating the Israeli army, in liberating all of Palestine, and in establishing our Palestinian State. What next? What are we to do with the Jews in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Metulla? Should the Palestinian Army search Jewish homes and prevent banned demonstrations from taking place? Shall I wear a uniform, take a gun, and post myself at the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, stop and search Jewish cars, while letting Arab cars pass unmolested?

PROFIL: You do not want to behave as the Israelis do today?

Husayn: Exactly. There would be yet another regime of occupation, only the other way around. Therefore I say: The Israelis should keep their state and we want our state. There have to be two states in Palestine, a Jewish one and an Arabic one. If one day my grandchildren and the grandchildren of the Israeli who happens to drive by my house in his army jeep come together and say: How stupid our grandparents were, let us work together, then it may be possible to bring about a union or something similar. However, for the time being, everybody has to go his own way.

PROFIL: In prison you met Shmu'el Goren, the "coordinator for the occupied areas." What did you discuss?

Husayni: He came on his own initiative. He said that he only knew my files and that he wanted to meet the man behind the files.

PROFIL: Did Goren ask you to stop the intifadah [uprising]?

Husayni: No, he tried to convince me that it would be better if we solved our problems between us. Why do we insist on the PLO? I told him that we want to solve the Palestinian problem in its entirety and not just the problem of the people in the occupied areas. The problem did not just begin in 1967, when these areas were occupied. Each Palestinian family is divided, one part lives here, another part somewhere outside. How can I solve my problem without being concerned about my cousin? At one point Goren said: If you get your state, some 2 million Palestinians will want to return. How will you cope with this?

PROFIL: What was your answer?

Husayni: We do not waive the right to return, not even for those who were expelled in the forties. Whether a number of Palestinians return to their old houses, whether new houses will be built for them in Israel, or whether they will be paid compensation—all this will be negotiated. However, the idea or the principle of a Palestinian State cannot be a matter of negotiations. The same holds true for Israel. This state is here and its existence cannot be questioned. Thus we have to discuss two issues: How to shape the right of return, and how to guarantee our security and the security of the Israelis. Not only do they need it, but we do too. We are the weaker ones.

PROFIL: What happens to your fellow citizens in diaspora?

Husayni: There will be three groups of Palestinians. Some will stay where they are now, in Abu Dhabi, Toronto, New York...

PROFIL: Like those Jews, who do not consider going to Israel.

Husayni: Exactly. One part will want to have a Palestinian passport, just in case, so as to be able to come here. When times are rough for them, they know that there is

a country that will accept them. These Palestinians will donate money and send their children here to visit or to university. Yet some others will come here and settle down. However, it will take years before we will be able to absorb a large number of refugees.

PROFIL: What should be Israel's first step?

Husayni: What would immediately calm the situation here is a declaration by the Israeli Government: We are ready to negotiate with the PLO. It is not sufficient that Jossi Sarid (a deputy of the opposition) says it. We would react with a positive step to any positive step by the other side.

PROFIL: Many Israelis say: Okay, 'Arafat may be in control of his people, but what about those groups that he cannot control, that do not listen to him?

Husayni: Like with all peoples, there are several schools of thought among the Palestinians. However, people change positions. Those who are not pragmatic may be so once they assume responsibility. Just think of 1981, when there was a short war with PLO units in Lebanon on Israel's northern border. After 2 weeks an informal "agreement" on an armistice was concluded between Israel and the PLO, which lasted for 1 year, until Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982. It was then that the PLO proved that it was in control of the situation in southern Lebanon.

PROFIL: What do you think about autonomy?

Husayni: Our objective is a Palestinian State. We can discuss how we can achieve this. We may begin with autonomy, but we would have to discuss its duration or a UN mandate for a transition period. However, the objective has to be clear, it has to be clearly established whether such a state will be established after 1 year or only after 10 years. If they tell me: We grant you autonomy and that is it, then this is impossible, this is not enough.

PROFIL: Would you take part in elections?

Husayni: Israel knows very well that, if tomorrow elections were held in the occupied areas, PLO people would be elected. However, there will not be any elections until Israel's withdrawal.

PROFIL: Premier Yitzhak Shamir has repeatedly declared that a Palestinian State would mean the destruction of Israel.

Husayni: If we want to achieve peace, Israelis and Palestinians have to free themselves of two things: the wonderful dreams and the terrible nightmares. Shamir continues to live with his dream of Greater Israel and the nightmare of the destruction of Israel. He has to abandon both dreams. How could a Palestinian State possibly threaten Israel? Israel is very strong and pretends to be very weak. The strongest military power in the Middle East is afraid of us! What can we say?

PROFIL: Many Israelis believe that if the Palestinians are given back Hebron they will want Haifa next.

Husayni: No! We are talking about real peace, with international guarantees, which are binding for both of us.

Algeria

Bendjedid, Al-Qadhdhafi Arrive in Oran

LD1402150289 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Algeria—The brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid arrived in the city of Oran, in sisterly Algeria, from Tunis at noon today.

The brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid left Carthage International Airport at 1100 this morning following a visit to sisterly Tunisia.

A big send-off ceremony was accorded the brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at the forefront of the send-off party at Carthage International Airport. [passage omitted]

Hold 'Closed Meeting'

LD1502105589 Tripoli JANA in English 0850 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Oran, 15 Al-Nawwar [February], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution and his brotherly President Bendjedid arrived in Oran in sisterly Algeria yesterday afternoon coming from Tunis. They were welcomed by the officials of this province and the commander and his assistants of the military region.

After singing the two national anthems, the leader of the revolution, accompanied by President Bendjedid, inspected the guards of honour. They then went to the office of residence.

A series of talks were conducted, attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Public Utilities, the Algerian foreign minister, Mr Bessaieh, and Mr Belkheir, director of the Presidential Office, the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria and the Algerian ambassador in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

President Bendjedid gave a lunch banquet to the leader of revolution in his honour. It was attended by the members of the two delegations. The talks were resumed following lunch in a closed meeting between the leader of revolution and President Bendjedid and was attended by Major Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi. These talks were on the distinctive and excellent relations and the unionist steps between the two sisterly countries and ways for promoting them.

These talks also covered the Maghreb summit to start tomorrow in Marrakech to bring the unionist action forward in response to the aspirations of our masses in Maghreb [word indistinct].

This unity will be the beginning of the serious work for establishing the overall Arab unity from the ocean to the gulf. It is a safety belt for our great Arab nation safeguarding it against the dangers posed against it, apart from being the sole way for liberating the occupied Arab land and securing the integrity and honour of the Arabs, let alone achieving progress and prosperity.

These talks also covered a comprehensive survey of matters of interest to the Arab homeland, apart from African and international matters.

The leader of revolution and President Bendjedid left Carthage airport at 11:00 a.m. yesterday following their visit to sisterly Tunisia.

They were seen off there. President Ben Ali was in the forefront of those bidding them goodbye at the airport.

Also participating in seeing them off were Mr. Hedi Baccouche, the Tunisian premier, the speaker of parliament, the sec. gen. of the Arab League and senior officials of the government and in the Destourian Democratic grouping and the dean of the diplomatic corps in sisterly Tunisia.

Bendjedid Visit to Morocco Denotes 'New Era'

PM1402143489 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 9 Feb 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Historic Milestone"]

[Text] For the observer who had the advantage of personally following President Chadli Bendjedid's 3-day visit to the Kingdom of Morocco, there is no doubt that Algerian-Moroccan relations have entered a new era. Indeed, how could anybody fail to be struck by the climate of great fraternity and confidence which characterized the meetings between the two heads of state and between all the members of the two delegations at all levels?

How could anybody fail to directly feel the constant and shared concern to work strongly for a revival of bilateral relations, which is ardently desired by the two peoples and by their leaders, and which forms part of the great objective of Maghreb building?

The results of this visit—the culmination of a phase started last year by the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco—live up to expectations.

The numerous private meetings between President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II, the discussions between the two delegations, and the working meetings between the ministers resulted in an initial series of decisions but also, and especially, in opening up broad prospects for bilateral cooperation.

The joint communique published yesterday reveals this and specifies in particular that a joint grand commission has been set up and, from March, will work to implement the joint desire to strengthen our relations in all spheres.

Algeria and Morocco could not have found a more worthy or striking way of commemorating the anniversary of the Ifrane treaty. Nor could they have made a more effective contribution to the second Maghreb summit which will be held in Marrakech in a few days' time.

The consolidation of their relations, and the increase in trade should be seen as a considerable contribution to the region's stability and hence to establishing the necessary preconditions for continuing and stepping up the process of building the Greater Maghreb.

It is in this sense that President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to the Kingdom of Morocco is not only a historic milestone in bilateral relations but also a new stone added to the Maghreb edifice.

Following the Zeralda summit, the Marrakech summit also bodes well, and is assured of a climate of fraternal serenity and a strong determination to move forward in the era of unity and the combination of all Maghreb potential in view of the entities being formed on the eve of the third millenium. Nothing can be more beneficial to all the Maghreb peoples, and nothing is more necessary.

Communique Issued on Tanzanian President's Visit

LD1402115688 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Algiers, 14/2/89 (APS)—The official visit in Algeria of the Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi was santioned with a joint communique reaffirming the exemplary quality of the multiform links between the two countries.

Concerning the situation in the world, the two parties noted with satisfaction that the new climate of detente prevailing on the international scene and favorizing dialogue, gave birth to propitious conditions for a peaceful settlement of the regional conflicts, and for the strengthen of international peace and security and the mobilization of huge human and material resources at the benefit of the whole international community.

The two parties hailed the proclamation of the state of Palestine which constitutes an important step in the long and heroic struggle to recover their national rights.

Their remain, on another turn, convinced that the convening of an international peace conference under the UN sponsorship with the participation of PLO on equal footing is the only means for the coming back of a just and lasting peace in Middle East.

The two parties expressed satisfaction about the positive evolution of the Western Sahara problem. In this regard, they expressed satisfaction about progress made in the peace process and the joint auspices of the OAU and the UN.

The two parties examined the international economic situation, and its aftermaths on the developing countries and their economic and social development—they are convinced about the urgent necessity of the resuming of the north-south dialogue and global negotiations in a universal frame, in order to reach a new international economic order.

In this frame, they expressed satisfaction about the common African position, on the external debt on Africa and promised to intensify together with the other African countries, their action in order to hold an international conference on the African debt.

Egypt

U.S. Embassy Questioning of Defendant Probed

NC1402193689 Cairo MENA in English 1900 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, Feb 14 (MENA)—The Supreme Emergency State Security Court, which is trying Egypt's Revolution Organisation case defendants, decided today to postpone to February 22 its hearing sessions upon the request of the counsel for the defence.

The court also decided to ask the public prosecution to take measures needed to look into the counsel for the defence's representation that defendant Ahmad 'Isam al-Din underwent questioning inside the American Embassy, and then have the investigations, if proved to have been made, added to the file of the petition.

The court further decided to consider the complaint submitted by Mahmud Nur al-Din, the principal defendant, against prison maltreatment of defendants.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Congressmen 13 Feb

NC1302140589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Les Aspin and Warren Nelson, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, this morning. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the U.S. ambassador to Egypt also attended the meeting.

Les Aspin, chairman of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, stated after the meeting that he and President Mubarak had discussed a number of issues connected with Egyptian-Israeli relations, the progress of the peace process, economic issues, and Egyptian-U.S. relations.

The U.S. congressman commended Egypt's positive contributions to the peace process. He announced that the U.S. congressional delegation will tour Israel, Jordan, and Syria.

Officials Remark on Ongoing Taban Negotiations

Problem 'Primarily Economic'

NC1302122589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, has stated that the problem existing between Egypt and Israel over the Sonesta Hotel built on Egypt's territory in Tabah is not political but primarily economic. He expressed the hope that an early solution will be reached for this problem.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Minister Sultan said that the aim of the talks on this issue is to determine the real value of the hotel, which is built on Egyptian territory. He said: From this premise, we will not buy the hotel, but pay compensation to its owners.

The minister said we are adopting sound analytical financial methods, including the use of computers, in order to determine the real value of the hotel and to pay its owners accordingly. This analysis is based on the current value of the financial forecasts prepared for the hotel.

Concluding his statement, the tourism minister noted that the U.S. delegation is following up the progress of the talks and sees the soundness of Egypt's approach to these.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian-Israeli talks on the tourist installations in Tabah will resume at the Sonesta Hotel in Cairo this afternoon. The Egyptian delegation will be headed by Minister Sultan, while the Israeli delegation will be headed by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Shim'on Shamir.

Financial Gap 'Narrowed'

NC1402185289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1824 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Egyptian and Israeli officials held talks over Tabah tourist installations in Cairo tonight.

Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation and head of the Egyptian delegation to the talks, described the talks as objective and constructive. He noted that the gap between Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints over the financial evaluation of the tourist installations has been narrowed.

Sultan, who was speaking after the meeting, said that the political authorities in both countries will be informed about the outcome of the talks in an attempt to reach a final settlement in this regard. He pointed out that the talks will resume next Sunday [19 February].

As for the management of the Tabah hotel, the tourism minister mentioned, without giving details, that the two sides have reached an agreement.

U.S. Tabah Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC1402212189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The U.S. delegation to the Tabah talks, led by Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department's legal adviser, arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit to Egypt to last several days. During the visit, the U.S. official will hold talks with Egyptian officials connected with the latest developments in the Tabah issue.

Soviet Minister Promotes Industrial Cooperation

Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1302221589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy Serafim Kolpakov arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation for a 5-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival Statement, the Soviet minister expressed his hope to meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. He added that the visit is within the framework of profound ties between the two countries. He noted that his talks with Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab will deal with promotion of industrial cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC1402085489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Soviet Minister of Ferrous Metallurgy Serafim Kolpakov at the presidential palace this morning. Attending the meeting were the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, chemist 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, and Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo . The Soviet minister arrived in Cairo yesterday evening on a 5-day visit to discuss means of strengthening industrial cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

Mubarak Meets Iraqi Interior, Justice Ministers

NC1302140189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabicdd 1230 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and Iraqi Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir today. Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr and Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr also attended the meeting. Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab stated that he had conveyed to President Mubarak greetings and regards from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi leaders.

He added: Our visit and our discussions with Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr are part of the excellent ties between us and are designed to exchange information and expertise and to coordinate efforts in the fight against acts that are harmful to the security and sovereignty of both countries and the Arab nation.

Interior Minister Ends Visit

NC1402132289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab left Cairo this afternoon for Luxor on his way back to his country following a 3-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted].

Mubarak Receives Iraqi RCC Member, Message

NC1402094689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0851 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—At the presidential palace this morning, President Husni Mubarak received Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member Hasan 'Ali, who is currently visiting Egypt. Iraqi Ambassador in Cairo Nabil Najm also attended the meeting. Afterwards, 'Ali said that he handed President Mubarak a written message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn inviting him to attend the summit meetings of the quadripartite economic grouping scheduled to convene in Baghdad later.

President's Envoy Departs

NC1402171889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Hasan 'Ali, member of Iraq's RCC and envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, left Cairo this evening after a 1-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Hasan 'Ali delivered a written message to President Husni Mubarak from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn inviting him to attend the summit meeting of the Economic Grouping in Baghdad on Thursday [16 February].

Hasan 'Ali arrived last night in Cairo from Sanaa, where he had delivered a similar message to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

Mubarak Leaves for Baghdad Summit 15 Feb

NC1502091589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0837 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Baghdad. He will attend the summit meetings of the quadripartite economic grouping scheduled to begin in Baghdad later this week.

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Visit Saudi Arabia

NC1502113689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo early this morning following a short visit to Saudi Arabia. While there, he delivered a message to Saudi monarch King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from President Mubarak. Upon his return, 'Abd al-Majid said that his visit to Saudi Arabia was very fruitful and that he held talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on all issues of common concern.

Al-Baz on Purpose of Quadripartite Grouping

NC1302125989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's Office for Political Affairs, said that the quadripartite economic grouping [of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the YAR] will hold a summit meeting later this week.

Following a meeting between President Husni Mubarak and a delegation from the American Jewish Committee, Al-Baz spoke to journalists. He answered a question on whether the countries of the quadripartite economic grouping could agree to include Syria in the grouping by saying: This grouping is not meant as an axis. All Arab countries desiring to become members should have the opportunity to do so. Egypt believes that every Arab country is fully qualified to become a member, and Syria is no exception, Al-Baz said. [passage omitted]

When Al-Baz was asked whether the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty prevents the grouping from taking on a political or military character, he replied by saying that this is not an obstackle because the peace treaty does not prevent us from doing so and no one can impose any such commitment on us.

Al-Baz said: We have repeatedly made it clear that we are committed to the joint defense pact and that none of our other obligations supersedes this commitment. However, we believe, Al-Baz said, that no axis should evolve among any group of Arab countries on economic, political, and military issues. For if this were to happen, Al-Baz said, the Arab ranks would be divided and the Arab League weakened. Also, Al-Baz noted, individual cooperation among Arab countries would take on a form harmful to pan-Arab interests and to every Arab state.

It is not in our interest, Al-Baz went on, to weaken the existing structures and modes of cooperation developed by the Arab League. Our aim in the grouping was to select a certain aspect of cooperation among Arab countries and promtoe it. We have selected cooperation in the economic field. Our work is complementary to the Arab League charter and to existing modes of cooperation. It merely takes this cooperation a step further.

Should we seek to establish an independent military and political grouping, we would sooner or later drift away from the Arab League. This is something which we do not wish to happen, for it will harm Arab national interests, Al-Baz added. [passage omitted]

Paper on Upcoming Mubarak-Bush Tokyo Summit
JN1402111889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Feb 89 p 6

[Editorial: "A Meeting for Boosting Peace Efforts"]

[Text] Intensive contacts are being held to prepare for a meeting between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President George Bush in Tokyo this month on the sidelines of the two presidents' participation in the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito. The Middle East issue and the new administration's ideas to boost peace efforts will definitely be among the main topics to be raised during the meeting, especially in light of the various parties' positive acceptance of the reality produced by the recent developments in the Middle East.

These include the annoucement that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will continue as a direct channel for discussing viewpoints on the achievement of peace, recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, and ending the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The meeting will also take place amid a growing European role. This role is now moving from the stage of exploring opinions and stands—a stage now reaching its end with the arrival of the foreign ministers of France, Spain, and Greece to the area again within a few hours—to the stage of taking the initiative and pressing the United States and Israel to provide an approriate atmosphere for making the international conference for peace succeed. This is especially true after the stands of all parties have become clear to the EC.

The third factor is the growing Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and its steadfastness before the Israeli repressive measures despite the occupation army's confrontation of stones with bullets. Israeli officials are becoming increasingly convinced that the intifadah will only end within a comprehensive political solution.

Hence, the world community is awaiting the Egyptian-U.S. summit, hoping that it will result in positive steps to boost the continued peace efforts.

Spanish Foreign Minister Continues EEC Visit

Holds News Conference
NC1202170589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister and chairman of the EEC's "troika" delegation, has stressed the importance of his delegation's current visit to Egypt, because of Egypt's important standing as a country and in light of recent events in the Middle East.

He said that these events, notably the Palestinian uprising, has caused the EC to move from the stage of merely issuing declarations to the stage of marking plans to hold an international peace conference at the earliest possible date.

Fernandez Ordonez stated that the EC currently seeks to bring the views of the parties to the conflict closer, to pave the way for holding an international peace conference. He noted that the Egyptian leadership had asserted the importance of the EC's role in settling the Middle East crisis.

The chairman of the EC delegation described his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today as very fruitful, and added that the consultations between Egypt and the EC will continue.

Fernandez Ordonez denied that there is a possibility of a meeting between the EC delegation and Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo.

Responding to a question on whether the EC will exert pressure on any of the concerned parties to attain a settlement of the conflict, the Spanish foreign minister remarked that the EC is conducting consultations and a dialogue to learn which steps can be made.

In a news conference today, Fernandez Ordonez said that he believes a change has recently taken place in Israel. He noted that in a recent public opinion poll 55 percent of the Israeli population supports negotiations with the PLO. He said that an EEC representative made an exploratory visit to Tel Aviv 2 months ago.

Fernandez Ordonez said that the EC as a community will not recognize the Palestinian state, but noted that, nevertheless, some countries such as Spain, France, and Greece maintain relations with the PLO.

He affirmed that the "troika" delegation's visit is the result of a purely European initiative, now that the EC has decided to move from the stage of merely making declarations to the stage of active moves. Francisco Fernandez Ordonez asserted that there are contacts in this regard between the EC and the two superpowers.

Fernandez referred to a meeting in Vienna between EC representatives and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. He added that further talks dealing with the European moves will be held next week. He asserted that this European activity is not a substitute for the preparatory committee, which would prepare the convening of an international conference. Fernandez Ordonez expressed hope that earnest preparations for such a conference will begin this year.

Regarding Israeli actions against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, Fernandez Ordonez affirmed that the EC urges Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and to halt its practices, in order to comply with international law.

At the beginning of the news conference, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, made a speech in which he expressed satisfaction at meeting with the EC delegation. He said that Egypt appreciates the EC's efforts to promote peace and hold an international conference at the earliest possible date.

Speaks on Peace Process

JN1402174589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
12 Feb 89 pp 1, 17

[By Paris AL-AHRAM correspondent]

[Text] Paris—In an exclusive statement to AL-AHRAM, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, Spanish foreign minister and chairman of the current EC ministerial session, has said that Spain highly appreciates President Husni Mubarak's efforts to form a moderate Arab front that will support peace. Following his Middle East tour within the framework of the EC's tripartite committee, he said that tangible efforts were demonstrated through the PLO's line, especially during the PNC session in Algiers last November as well as through Egypt's effective role during the UN General Assemby session in Geneva.

The Spanish minister also affirmed that due to its weight in the region, Egypt is required to play a prominent role in the peace process in the Middle East. He pointed out that the tripartite committee was entrusted by the EC Ministerial Council on 19 December with the task of holding contacts with the parties concerned to give momentum to the peace process.

Fernandez-Ordonez also said that his visit to Israel as well as the committee's meeting with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Madrid on 27 January have achieved their goals. He added: The committee explained the EC's position on the current peace process while the Palestinian and Israeli sides provided the committee with extensive information and expressed their welcome of the European peace efforts, although the Palestinian side showed a deeper welcome than the Israeli side, as ne put it. He also pointed out that during its contacts with the Palestinian and Israeli sides, the committee sensed their belief that the current situation cannot continue and that there is a need to advance efforts to find a solution to the problem.

The Spanish minister also explained that his country's interest in the Middle East problem is not a new phenomenon and that the EC's aim under the chairmanship of Spain is to give a new momentum to the peace process by holding contacts with the parties concerned in order to convene an international peace conference, which is the best way to reach a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

The Spanish minister expressed his belief that since the holding of the PNC session, the Palestinian leadership has opted for a clear-cut and moderate path as well as negotiations—a path which the EC considers positive. Regarding the PLO's representation, he referred to UN General Assembly Resolution No. 53 which was approved by the EC.

The resolution calls for holding an international peace conference to be attended by all parties, including the PLO. He described Egyptian-Spanish relations as good, and expressed hope that the two countries' understanding and agreement on several international issues will translate to stronger relations.

Reportage on Al-Minya Communal Strife

JN1302124389 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic
9 Feb 89 p 15

[Hasan 'Abd al-Basit report: "Al-Minya, the Besieged Bride of Upper Egypt"]

[Text] Cairo—At night, the streets of Al-Minyah look like a place where revelries and boisterous parties have just ended. Things are strewn about, piles of trash are everywhere while stray animals search for something to eat in the total darkness.

My companion, who was taking me to meet with the Al-Jihad Society [jama'at al-jihad] leaders, turned into a long, dark street. He was walking in front of me with his face covered, beckoning to me to follow him. He was a little boy and I knew that he was the brother of a frontline member of the Al-Jihad Society who appeared on the scene in the 1981 incidents. The streets intersected and at the beginning of each street stood a boy on a bicycle. My companion asked him about the "weather" and the boy replied: Safe. We followed this boy on a bicycle who headed for the next street to warn of our arrival.

It was dark everywhere and I was afraid. My heart lurched when a large mouse jumped in front of me from a pile of trash. We approached a narrow alley with low, bleak looking houses that looked like tombs. At one of the doors the boy stood, looked in all directions, and beckoned to us to enter. We entered a house with a dank smell and a minaret-like staircase. Someone knocked on the door in a particular way and we heard a deep voice asking: Who?

The door was opened and we saw a square room and four Islamic society members sitting inside. I greeted them and they apologized for the trouble I took reaching the place. They said we had better wait for the society's leader. I sat down and at my side sat my photographer with his eyes wide open and the dreadful question in his mind: What if the security men raid the place and arrest all of us?

There was a knock on the door and a tall, thin young man entered. He looked at me and said: I have seen you before. I said: Me, too. Perhaps it was in Asyut during one of my visits when I met with brothers Ahmad 'Abduh Salim and Usamah Rushdi. He said: Yes, yes, in the Al-Shari'ah society mosque. They are in jail.

The man introduced himself as follows: My name is 'Ali Muhammad 'Ali, bachelor's degree in agriculture, the Al-Rahman Mosque preacher, and leader of the society in Al-Minya.

['Abd al-Basit] Can you explain to me what is happening?

['Ali] The security forces are pursuing us and trying to arrest us by all means after the attack on the church. We are trying to evade them so that the society's branch will not be wiped out.

['Abd al-Basit] I recall that the late Sayyid Qutb warned that the Islamic call might become an idol in itself to certain elements or a justification for actions that Islam does not accept?

['Ali] We are aware of this and we insist on hiding and conducting our activities in secrecy because we consider these activities lawful duties that cannot be stopped. However, our doggedness is confronted by the doggedness of the security organs and you can see the results. In short what you see now is not the result of present circumstances. It originated 1 year ago, to be exact, October before last.

The security forces arrested many youths and many society leaders and tried to repress our activities with a heavy hand. They prevented prayers in Al-Rahman Mosque and the weekly Tuesday seminar. They tried to stop the ordinary prayers and pursued all of us without any apparent cause. Later some of the society's members were released from jail with a great determination to continue work for the Islamic Call.

['Abd al-Basit] Do you consider the demolition of Christian churches essential for the Islamic Call?

['Ali] Of course not. But these incidents express the enormous pressure felt by the Muslim citizen in Al-Minya. We consider the "society's" activity within the Muslim community as a very positive development. It gets a response from the ordinary citizen who feels that this activity should be encouraged. Unfortunately, however, he also sees the security forces massed and in a constant state of alert outside the society's mosques to prevent the kind of services we are giving. Not a single week passes without some show of force in the main squares and outside the mosques to disrupt the movement and to strike at worshippers.

On the other hand, church activities are becoming increasingly provocative. The church has never before used loudspeakers to announce prayers. Now, however, church services are announced over resounding loudspeakers. Christians also leave churches in large numbers and walk in what look like mammoth demonstrations or processions. Yet, the loudspeaker of Al-Rahman Mosque was damaged and dismantled more than 18 times.

The security forces attack and detain the members of the Islamic society and their sympathizers. Social activities and religious activities, including memorization of the Koran, are banned. On the other hand, most bars in Al-Minya are owned by Christians. Christians also import alcohol. Moreover, drugs and blue movies are found in Christian pharmacies, stores, or private apartments.

By curtailing the society's activity, the security forces have created an imbalance between Islamic and Christian activity. If this has created a feeling of resentment among ordinary people, how then do you expect people in charge of mosques to feel?

The recent incidents of hurling a petrol bomb into a church and destroying a Christian club were an expression of this resentment and a warning that there is no equality of rights between the Muslim majority and the Christian minority.

['Abd al-Basit] Do your reactions reflect a feeling of persecution?

['Ali] Not just persecution, but an attempt by the government to strangle us, an attempt in which the Christians play a major role in order to turn the entire regime against us. Yet, we really have nothing against Egyptian Christians. On the contrary, many poor Christians come to our mosques to solve some problem or to get some treatment or assistance.

We have only chosen them [as a target], because they are an essential side which should have raised their voices with ours to make the government officials understand that there is a problem which must be solved. I do not want Christians to support my causes, but to simply understand that they cannot live a comfortable life while I am impoverished. They must not believe that I will permit them to enjoy their life and at the same time help destroy the reform I have instilled in the hearts of Muslims. I must say: No, there is a problem. You cannot sit there comfortably at my expense while I am pleading my case without response from anyone. You must raise your voice with me. I will make a case for you.

['Abd al-Basit] The regime in Egypt bans your practices because they are of a political nature and against the law and Constitution. Why are the Christians guilty and what are their charges?

['Ali] The Egyptian Church is not a place to perform religious rites only, as some people might think. This is why we have chosen it as a partner in this case. The Egyptian Church is involved in many destructive and terrorist acts and there is material evidence to prove this.

Most of the complaints we have received are related to the forbidden deeds prevailing in our society. We found that approximately 80 percent of these forbidden deeds are committed by Christians, in fact, by the Church priests themselves.

It is known that since 1980, the Christian girls have been receiving instructions to trick Muslim youths—male and female. How can you explain the phenomenon of a veiled girl who is tricked by a Christian girl to make her remove the veil, become a friend of a Christian youth, and fall in love with him?

Before this, they used a certain kind of spray that leaves the sign of the cross on the clothes of the Muslim ladies. And the role of the church in this was proven.

['Abd al-Basit] Do you not believe that playing with sectarianism might burn all of Egypt?

['Ali] Matters have not reached this limit and resolving the issue is very simple. If the officials are concerned for the people's comfort they must work out equality and liberty in performing the religious rites between us and the Christians. If this is achieved the problem will end.

['Abd al-Basit] Let us talk about the society's social and political activities.

['Ali] First, we believe that all Muslims are one body and the believers support each other. We try to plant this among the Muslims. All our acts aim to help the poor and establish the spirit of cooperation and coordination among Muslims. When we take from the rich and give to the poor we entrench in the rich people a positive approach toward the poor people. And the society has adopted many social welfare acts in the mosques that work to regain their natural role regardless of any other political dimensions. We buy and receive immolations. We also formed a committee to receive almsgivings at the end of Ramadan and another committee to help the wealthy people calculate their almsgivings.

Before each scholastic year, people used to wait for the government's assistance. Now that this assistance is cancelled, we have collected clothes and used school equipment and distributed them to more than 300 families.

['Abd al-Basit] What are the political aims behind these charitable activities?

['Ali] Realistically, they aim to instill a religious duty ordained by God, which is to call for God, lift the suffering and injustice done to the oppressed, and build the Muslim individual, especially since all the problems from which our world is suffering are attributed to two things. The first is related to production, its shortage, and the way to increase it. This is due to the fact that the education of the individual is not sound. The second is linked to the laws and rules organizing the people's activity and life. These concentrate on the academic side only and neglect the issue of building the individual. We aim to build the Muslim in a sound way, and you are aware that any sound building must stem from the Islamic creed.

You may imagine that we are ruling Al-Minya or seeking to establish a republic there. This is how every visitor to Al-Minya feels because its people are religious by nature and this may look like a phenomenon. Abidance by Islamic resurgence, in addition to the essence of religion, has become a salient feature of the city of Al-Minya. The historical dimensions of these resurgences date back to the "Al-Shari'ah society's" activities which made many people become religious.

Moreover, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and changing things by hand give the impression that we have some authority. But the matter is different. We never took anyone to the mosque and beat him up there for cursing religion. There are no such beating devices in the mosque as the security service claims.

['Abd al-Basit] Do you carry sharp tools and pocket knives, and why?

['Ali] It is the security service which is using chains, water pipes, iron bars, and axes against us. Do you expect us to pray in a mosque encircled from all sides by karate teams and men armed with such tools and weapons without carrying something with which we can defend ourselves? Yes, we carry chains and pocket knives to confront the security men and not the citizens because these men attack us for no reason. The inhabitants of the area where Al-Rahman mosque is located have recently seen how the policemen tore up eight of our brothers. They came from nearby villages to attend Tuesday seminar, not knowing that the mosque was in the hands of the security men. Therefore, we must fortify ourselves and keep weapons to defend ourselves, and this is legitimate.

['Abd al-Basit] Ibn Taymiyah [ancient Muslim scholar] says: Any change of a wrong deed is forbidden if it leads to a more gross wrong deed. Being dispersed, lost, and chased, as is the case with you—is this a mistake a thousand times greater than drinking wine, for example?

['Ali] For example, Egypt has agricultural skills that it cannot use. It does not need people like us in material areas. It needs people who call for God and contribute to saving the nation from its spiritual crises, because the corruption in which we live is due to the nation's departure from its religion.

What you call a big mistake and a small mistake is not the result of changing some mistakes by the society, but is the natural result of the conflict between right and wrong. There is clear evidence in the Koran. Right and wrong cannot meet at all. In fact, people understand this. If you ask anyone in Al-Minya about the government's motives for besieging our mosques, he will say that the

society did not take any violent action in the past and did not even clash with any wrong deed. On the contrary, observers of the society's activity said that the society was branded with a social nature.

['Abd al-Basit] How do you describe your attack against churches and monasteries?

['Ali] We said that the attack against the churches was aimed at reducing pressure on us. We do not take it lightly in dealing with security. When the authorities pressure us, they usually do not want us to move in a certain direction, especially if such a move is more dangerous to security.

['Abd al-Basit] Are there bloody clashes with the Muslim Brotherhood like the ones in other governorates?

['Ali] The relationship between the society and the Muslim Brotherhood in Al-Minya depends on how each group was established. We and they emerged as one group, and then we separated. Because Al-Minya is an agricultural society, social ties between us are strong and the humanitarian ties are cordial. However, procedural differences still exist, although the Muslim Brotherhood maintains different intrerpretations. They say we are a group of poor people who cannot be patient.

This a regrettable description and it will effect the Islamic current badly. This means that the conflict between us and them is a class conflict and that their way is the way of the rich [as published]. We will not be drawn into such a conversation on such ideas because they have no value in the Islamic law. Almighty God says: Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of God is the most righteous of you [Koranic verse].

['Abd al-Basit] Some have proposed a formulation, similar to that of the National Progressive Unionist Party (NPUP), conditional on renouncing violence to unite the Islamic current's factions. What is your opinion on this?

['Ali] Unity of the Islamic current is the hope of each faithful Muslim. The present situation is heart-breaking. The enemy's harsh treatment leaves everyone with the impression that the enemy is united and makes unity and cooperation one of the basic options. However, any call for unity should not require that one of the factions back down on specific and legal issues which it considers basic to its program or that all follow one group's program. This is not in the interest of the Islamic current; nay, it quickens and facilitates its defeat.

We hope to coordinate gradually with the other groupings. However, this demands that we first size up these groups against each other. In the NPUP—for the sake of argument—the Nasserites recognize the communists, who in turn recognize any other faction, revolutionary or non-revolutionary. At least, they respect each other. In the Islamic arena, how can you take a step toward renouncing the dispute and forming a coalition when you find that others do not even recognize you?

The Muslim Brotherhood's theses to justify our existence is a clear example of this. And so long as they—that is, the brotherhood—present themselves as the only Islamic current or the only authentic one and all the others as mere bubbles and perturbations, there will be no cooperation because this is contrary to reality. Our size in the arena of Islamic action is too great to be ignored. Our activity also reflects our strength.

['Abd al-Basit] What would the situation be like if an armed group claimed to protect the Christian doctrines and churches and confronted your activity?

['Ali] This is obviously expected. We realize that Al-Minya could turn into a bloodbath. However, we are not responsible for that. You defend your causes with the most appropriate means if you have the opportunity to choose them. However, when all the appropriate means and ways are not available, what would you do? The government is the one responsible for everything that is happening to the Christians because it does not treat us equally. It should allow the holding of Islamic rituals without detentions or pressures which might lead to friction.

['Abd al-Basit] What governs your relationship with the Christians in the state you are seeking?

['Ali] They have the same duties and obligations as the Muslims if there is a covenant of protection between them. If neither of the two sides encroaches on the other and respects the images expressing its doctrines, then issues will take the correct course.

When we say that they have the same duties and obligations as we do, we mean that this would place the Christians under the application of the Koranic situation: "Until they pay the Jizya [tax levied on non-Muslims] with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued" [Koranic verse]. The religious doctrine says that you cannot dispute the text.

I asked the leader of the Al-Jihad Society about the society's members who have left prison. He pointed to one of the audience, saying he is one of them. His name is Muhammad Mukhtar Mustafa and he belongs to the group that was arrested following the 1981 podium incident [when President Al-Sadat was assassinated] on charges of affiliation with the Jihad Organization. I told him [Muhammad Mukhtar]: It is known that the group, which was released after 7 years of imprisonment, harbors feelings of revenge and that this group was behind the recent subversive escalation.

Muhammad Mukhtar Mustafa said: In our talks, we always reiterate the story of 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, who was about to kill a polytheist with his sword. When the polytheist spat on 'Ali's face he left him alone and did

not kill him in order that such a killing in the cause of God would not be labeled a personal vendetta. We believe that God Almighty does not champion a certain group; nor does He entrust it with the Islamic law, unless it does not expect something in return for its wordly sacrifices, even if they entail taking revenge on God's enemies. Although revenge is an established religious matter which we execute as a mere Islamic ruling without any personal judgment.

It is sufficient to tell you about some of our suffering in the jails after our brothers fled. They [the authorities] deprived us of everything, even air if they could do so! Indeed, they took all that we had in terms of personal belongings, books, Korans, furniture, clothes, and food. They even cut off electricity. Moreover, they razed the mosque in which we used to perform prayers in jail. They even uprooted all the trees and plants surrounding the narrow cells, whose walls and ceilings were made of concrete, so only non-concrete walls were retained.

The cells are closed day and night, while both visits and outside food are forbidden. The "brothers" eat the jail's food, which is useless to man. As a result of bad medical care and bad ventilation, many people developed chest and skin diseases and cases of suffocation. We were also attacked with smoke bombs inside the cells.

Mustafa added: They imagine this pressure will prompt us to desist from our principles. If this were true, it would have been attained long ago. This is because these practices have been used against us since we were imp[illegible]oned in 1981. In fact, this will increase our determination and instill more hostility and grudges in our souls. Preventing the effect of such hostility cannot be made by the society's or the government's decision. In other words, besieging the mosques, harassing the detainees, and killing our brothers in 'Ayn Shams, Asyut, and other governorates are pressures which express themselves spontaneously and at random.

['Abd al-Basit] Hence, you have moved out [of jail] to take revenge?

[Mustafa] Basically, we proceed from the directives of God Almighty. Although we are human beings who have a certain degree of endurance, we have been instructed to purify ourselves of personal ambitions. Therefore, we will never take revenge, but we will take vengeance for God's religion, strike in the name of religion, and stop our strikes in the name of right. The events that occurred in Al-Minya after we had moved from jail were not a result of personal frustration but out of championing God's religion and removing injustice done to God's followers.

Libya

Jallud Opens CCLA Session in Tripoli 13 Feb

LD1302181689 Tripoli JANA in English 1704 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud opened the 51st. round of sessions of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa (CCLA) at the People's Hall in Tripoli this morning.

Taking part are foreign ministers of the 22 member states of the Organisation of African Unity OAU, representatives of various African liberation movements and 9 states attending as observers.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ide Oumarou OAU's secretary general, the OAU assistant secretary for political affairs, a number of OAU officials, the heads of African diplomatic missions accreditted to Great Jamahiriyah and representatives of Arab and African liberation movements in Great Jamahiriyah.

Gives Opening Speech

LD1402162689 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Quotation marks, ellipses as received]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 14: JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud give a speech pointing out: "It was a great honour for the Libyan Arab people to host these meetings. This people, which was Liberated by the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in 1969. It put all its efforts and potentials into cooperating with all African freedom-fighters placing its political, material and military capabilities for the benefit of the African continent."

He indicated: "All African causes started to take priority in the Libyan Arab people's movement due to its belief in that the freedom of the Libyan Arab people is linked to the freedom of its [as received] African continent. The Libyan people raised high the slogan: Africa has no alliance but with itself. The Libyan Arab people placed all its potentials in the battle for the liberation of Africa politically economically and militarily.

"We as Arabs and as Africans have created an ideal ballance in our struggle within our Arab nation and within our African continent. [words indistinct] This historic deed had infuriated US imperialism and the Atlantic power.

"We in Great Jamahiriyah do not regret that we have prepared ourselves for it. We beforehand know that they would conspire against us, but despite all that, nothing did or will deter us from carrying out the role we have chosen for ourselves.

"By revolution, the Libyan Arab people had chosen an historic leading role and that had resulted in bearing him [as received] responsibilities and that it was ready for them, because it had accepted the challenge of and confrontation with America in defence of its principles.

What had caused us a lot of pain was not the confrontation with America and the West - for we have been subjected to military, political and economic aggression, and that what had promoted our determination to press ahead with confrontation, for we are right, our morals are very high and we are facing aggression and great Jamahiriyah is the No 1 victim of the official and organised terrorism and what had caused us to feel the pain is the attempt by some - without success - to distort this historic role."

He pointed out that the Libyan Arab people had faced this terror because it is the price for the role it had chosen and the approaches it had chosen to follow in its life.

Staff Major Jallud asked for whose benifit facts are being falsified, the Great Al-Fatih Revolution being distorted after offering, and still offering, to the African struggle all potentials and the support. Falsifying the truths will never weaken our principles, because our morals were high and will remain so. We shall continue to confront imperialism despite possession of potentials [word indistinct] means to reverse the facts, as it always does," He stressed that the meeting of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa (CCLA) over the land of Great Jamahiriyah is a backing for the Libyan Arab people and a refutation of the lies promoted by America and the West against it.

He pointed out that CCLA had played an historic role saying [word indistinct] salute this committee and I salute the African front line states. Those states that courageously and efficently born the responsibility of backing the struggle and the fight. History is a witness on the victories achieved and consolidated - thanks to the front line states".

Staff Major Jallud said: "Despite the shortage in capabilities of the African frontline states, but thanks to their historic role, the racist regimes were being toppled in the south of the continent. Until all these regimes crumbled. The remaining will crumble. [preceding two sentences as received] The people of Namibia, under SWAPO'S leadership, will be victorious."

He pointed out that the Arab nation and Africa represent a political, social and economic zone, They both suffered from colonialism, Arab history mingled with the African history, Arab civilisation with African. Arabs and Africans are plagued by two racist regimes, in occupied Palestine and in the south of the continent, which urge them to confront both regimes and wipe them out.

He indicated that: "Western colonialism - led by America - tried to establish a dent in the African continent, such was the David Stable Accord, by creating a similar one in Africa but failed because Africa is more aware and more determined to confront US imperialism, so the African David Stable project befelled." [sentence as received]

He asserted: "Attempting to sneak a David Stable agreement into Africa and the resumption of African relations with the racist in the success of the African David Stable Accord, for both racist regimes in South Africa and occupied Palestine are similar and had been planted in the heart of the Arab homeland and in Africa as a cultural extention and advanced bases for the imperialist West to preserve the imperialist interests in the Arab homeland and in Africa."

He added: "The victory of Africa and the Arab nation in their comprehensive battle cannot be achieved except by the continued alliance between them as being a political and social one zone."

He pointed out: "We see the [word indistinct] picture of popular resistance in African and see a similar picture: the stone revolution in occupied Palestine and that is no coincidence."

Staff Major Jallud said: "As Africa and the Arab nation consitute a one geographical region, Great Jamahiriyah has called for the expansion of the Arab Maghreb unity idea...to other African states adjacent to the Sahara.. This is not Saharism...It is combining of potentials and capabilities."

He went on to say: "The African states' independence did not come by way of armed struggle, by the determination of the African continent as a whole to send caravans of martyrs, through struggle and sufferings - and that what had forced the United Nations to submit to the liberation and independence demands by the African nations.

"Attempts to harm the African armed struggle, by saying independence had come through agreements as an introduction to steal such independence and conspire against it, was an attempt to empty it from its content of struggle. That was what the colonialist states had failed to achieve."

Staff Major Jallud has stressed the necessity of eliminating the two racist regimes in occupied Palestine and South Africa because they are against the movement of history and artificial. History has taught us that whatever is strong today will be weak in future.

He asks : 'What benefit have we got for the concessions demanded by the US and the West which have been accepted by the PLO ?'. He points out that nothing has been achieved, for Zionist terrorism has increased. The Palestinian people is being slaughtered continuously. The US and the West are not a neutral quarter. Rather, they back the racist regime in Palestine with money and weapons . The concessions demanded by the US from the African continent will be the previous ones. [sentence as received] These concessions wanted by the US and the West are laying down the arms and sowing seeds

in [word indistinct] suspicion in the masses and in the line of struggle. As such, they aim at cutting off the road of the continuation of the armed struggle against the racist regimes .

He adds that this meeting comes after signing the bilateral and tripartite agreement on the independence of Namibia according to the UN resolution but, he points out, little has started now. We should be consciously be on the stand-by because [word indistinct] and the NATO West will try to realize what they have been unable to achieve through fighting. They will try to realize this politically and diplomatically. We should learn from the diplomatic battle of Zimbabwe when they tried to back Mizora and keeping off the fighters under the leadership of the struggler Mugabe and his supporters to prop up Mizora and jettison all the contents of independence in a bid to make it a puppet regime and continue to defend the racist regime in South Africa. But this plot has failed and a genuine independence has been realized. Zimbabwe has become a new base for backing the confrontation states to resist the racist regime in South Africa.

He has requested the liberation committee and the Organization of African Unity to be conscious until the achievement of the independence of Namibia as Africa [word indistinct]: full independence compatible with the size of the sacrifices given by Africa and the people of SWAPO and the sacrifices sustained by the African confrontation states.

Staff Major Jallud has brought to their notice that any attempt made by the US to conspire against this independence to keep off SWAPO movement from leading the people of Namibia - the independent - and to create puppets and symbols and supporting the partisan and tribal conflicts. [sentence as received] He adds that the attempt to keep the troops of the racist regime in this stage in Namibia is the beginning of affecting independence.

Staff Major Jallud has surveyed the attempts made by the racist regime before the independence of Namibia demanding that these attempts be resisted, apart from concentrating the African presence inside Namibia to see to it that the will of the Namibian people is not falsified and that independence is as is wanted by Africa.

He points out that we announce at this historic meeting that we are prepared to assume our role as is decided by Africa.

He points out the importance of this meeting that comes at an important period of time in relation to the future of Namibia. He adds that we must mobilize ourselves for the diplomatic and political battle with the same force we had during the struggle.

Meanwhile, he has lauded the struggle waged by the people of Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO to achieve independence and the brave role of the African confrontation states that have given an example in sacrifice for Africa.

He points out in concluding his speech that the conception of the liberation of Africa should assume a more comprehensive and broader dimension. The political independence should be a means for complementing the liberation of every country politically and economically. [sentence as received]

Accord Signed With USSR Youth Delegation

LD1202115689 Tripoli JANA in English 0800 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nawwar [February] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Association of the Libyan Arab Youths Houses and the delegation of the Soviet youths, who are present visiting Great Jamahiriyah, signed an accord of cooperation in the fields of youths and tourism.

The accord provides for the organisation of visits exchange between youths delegation of the two countries as from the beginning of this year.

On the other hand the Association of Youths Houses organised a programme for the Soviet delegation enabling them to visit a number of projects and achievements realised at various levels on the land of Great Jamahiriyah thanks to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution.

Sudan

Plot To Overthrow Regime Reportedly Uncovered

NC1502151389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Feb (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities have uncovered a new conspiracy that was planned to overthrow the country's democratic system and eliminate all its prominent political leaders.

The AL-UMMAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the Al-Ummah Party led by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, published a report today stating that the elements who were planning to carry out this conspiracy called themselves "the Popular Movement to Liberate Sudan."

The Sudanese paper declared that among the individuals who have been interrogated during the current relevant investigations, are members of Sudanese trade unions and political parties, and prominent personalities known for their opposition to democracy and their cooperation with the former Sudanese president. The paper pointed out that these individuals and personalities participated in a symposium together with the rebel movement in southern Sudan, in the city of Ambo, on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border on 4 February.

The paper also said that investigations conducted with some of these groups have shown that the plan for this conspiracy dates back to 1986, and from that time delegates [not further specified] began to arrive in the Ethiopian capital "under pretexts apparently merciful but actually treacherous and treasonous".

The AL-RAYAH newspaper, mouthpiece of the National Islamic Front, part of the ruling coalition, reports that the purpose of the symposium in question, which was organized by the rebel movement led by John Garang and attended by 36 people, 18 rebel leaders and 18 other individuals representing leftist forces and union leaders in Sudan, was to prepare for carrying out this conspiracy, destroying democracy and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Defense Minister on Efforts To Regain Nasir

JN1202092889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Feb (WAKH)—Sudanese Minister of Defense General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil has affirmed that the Sudanese Armed Forces are currently preparing to regain the border city of Nasir which fell to the rebels with Ethiopian support on 26 January.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, the Sudanese minister of defense said that the Ethiopian Government has continued to support the rebels in southern Sudan despite the apparent improvement in bilateral relations. He indicated that the rebel camps are located inside Ethiopian territory and this obstructs the Sudanese Forces' plans to attack these camps.

In a related development, a high-ranking Sudanese military source affirmed to the newspaper that the United States and West European states have rejected Sudanese arms requests designed to bolster Sudan's defense posture in southern Sudan and enable it to confront the rebels' repeated attacks. The source said that U.S. military support for Sudan during the previous period was provided on the condition that this support would not be used in southern Sudan and that its use be restricted to confront armed robbery in the Darfur region.

Foreign Minister Cited on Media, Policy

EA1402214689 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Sudan has been extensively covered in the foreign media recently in both friendly and unfriendly ways. Dr Hasan 'Abdullah al-Turabi, a permanent intellectual figure, outstanding man of law and Islamic leader, caused great controversy when he was appointed as deputy prime minister and foreign minister connected to the ex-military regime. With regard to the controversial application of the Shari'ah laws in 1983, Dr al-Turabi feared not to steer Sudan's foreign relations to prosperous harbors. Today in the news we look at what he has to say.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi has said a blueprint on Sudan's foreign policy has been completed prior to its submission to the Cabinet and the Constituent Assembly for approval. Al-Turabi in a press statement yesterday, affirmed as untrue the image of Sudan's external relations as portrayed by some local newspapers, saying that a number of European countries had affirmed to Sudanese officials that they are not affected by the local mass-media reports and that they do not link international cooperation with the internal policies of the country.

Dr al-Turabi emphasised that similar stances have been often declared by Asian countries and clearly demonstrated in the recent statements by the American officials. He did not elaborate further. He described Sudan's relations with other countries as cordial and said they would be boosted up in the upcoming stage. Al-Turabi noted that certain foreign mass-media quarters tackle Sudan's issues with ignorance and prejudice.

Commenting on the peace process in the country, the foreign minister says that the government will adopt specific policy concerned with its understanding of peace. There by will also be a policy regulating procedures and contacts carried the Sudanese as though as non-Sudanese brothers which offer their good-will offices. [sentence as heard]. Dr al-Turabi disclosed that many circles have also to assume a role for peace restoration and the government attitude towards these efforts would be decided according to the government's new policy. Dr al-Turabi said that Sudan is challenged to intensify contacts with the friendly countries in the context of its foreign policy. Ambassadorial delegations will visit those countries in order to further develop bilateral and multilateral relations. These diplomatic moves would cover all countries, particularly Iran he added.

Dr al-Turabi pointed out that a high-level Iranian delegation will visit Sudan shortly for talks with Sudanese authorities on the issue of Sudanese prisoners of war held in Iran. The news of freeing them will be heard soon, Al-Turabi said. Speaking of the proposed appointment of politicians for diplomatic posts, the foreign minister said the issue had been approved by the government, adding that measures were currently being made to guarantee that those appointments would not be utilised for harming the Sudanese diplomacy.

The foreign minister says that Sudan will play a role in the settlement of the issue of Afghanistan after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from the country. He said Sudan would hold talks on the Afghan issue with Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and the Afghan Mujahidin. Al-Turabi indicated that Sudan will also take part in the initiative for extending political, economic, and technical assistance to Afghanistan.

That was Sudan in the news. Today it was about Dr Hasan Abdallah al-Turabi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and his policies as regards Sudan diplomacy.

Rebels Attack Government Brigade Near Torit
EA1402173289 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] SPLA has just received this military communique. This means that our [scheduled] programme is to change. [martial music] Bright Star Campaign Forces today wiped out about 75 per cent of an enemy brigade between Ngangala, 20 miles east of Juba, and Juba, about 20 kms from Juba. The brigade was attempting to advance towards Torit. Most enemy soldiers have either been killed, wounded or fled to Liria some 10 miles east of Ngangala. Most enemy trucks and tanks have been destroyed and are now still burning. The brigade commander is now trapped and left only with his headquarters.

SPLA forces are now in position to complete the destruction of the brigade headquarters as well as to destroy any rescue forces from either Juba or Liria. The fighting started at 0600 hours Sudan local time this morning and lasted for 2 hours of very heavy fighting.

Rebels Report Attacking Train Escort 11 Jan
EA1002181589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 10 Feb 89

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of Twik Twik, Eagle, Rajjaf, and Najdah Battalions ambushed enemy soldiers escorting four trains. The ambush took place on 11 January between Mabior and Ariath. In this engagement 50 government troops were killed and an untold number wounded. [passage omitted]

Army Cites Rebel Radio's 'Psychological Warfare'
EA1002203889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Feb 89

[Text] The General Command of the People's Armed Forces has issued the following statement to the Sudanese people:

On 7 February 1989 the outlaw radio reported that their movement had received a letter signed by nine military units operating in the south. The units are alleged to have said in the letter that they had cabled the defense minister and commander in chief on the need for the government to move toward peace.

The General Command of the People's Armed Forces confirms that all its units stationed in the southern operational areas are displaying a high degree of discipline and discharging their duties with valor, manliness, and sacrifice defending the unity of the homeland. It states that as everybody knows, the Armed Forces are not involved in politics. The claims broadcast by the outlaw movement that some military units had been in contact with it and that Army commanders were putting forward political demands, are devoid of truth and credibility. They are part of the psychological warfare aimed at undermining the unity and cohesion of the Armed Forces.

Decree Appoints New Coordination Minister
EA1202165689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Mr Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the head of Supreme Council, has issued a decree appointing Mr Robert Dak as minister for regional coordination and coordination of local and native government after reading a recommendation of the prime minister. The minister will be sworn in before the chairman of the head of the the state's council and its members at 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning at the republican palace.

New Youth, Sports Minister Appointed, Sworn in
EA1402111789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The council of the head of state has issued a decree appointing Mr Joseph Lasu as minister for youth and sports, following a recommendation by the prime minister. Mr Joseph Lasu was sworn in today before the chairman and the members of the council of the head of state at the Republican Palace.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Leaves for Maghreb Summit in Marrakech
LD1502112389 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Tunisia this morning at 1110 [1010 GMT] for Marrakech to take part in the Maghreb summit which will open tomorrow.

Kuwait

Defense Minister Interviewed on Qatar Visit

LD1502124189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, Feb 15 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah said Wednesday that Arab-Iranian relations will improve in the near future.

Shaykh Nawwaf told Qatari AL-RAYAH newspaper that Kuwait is eager to strengthen relations with Iran for interest of the region.

The defense minister said he hopes Iraq and Iran will reach an agreement in their UN sponsored direct negotiations so that both countries can live peacefully.

Concerning the Kuwaiti policy of (?armament) the top defense official stressed that Kuwait follows the policy of diversifying the sources of its arms.

Shaykh Nawwaf hailed his recent visit to Qatar which came in response to an invitation by Qatari Crown Prince and Defense Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, adding that it aims at boosting cooperation between Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

During his visit to Qatar, which was concluded yesterday, Shaykh Nawwaf met with the Qatari amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani.

Daily AL-RAYAH said that Shaykh Nawwaf emphasized the necessity and importance of coordination between GCC states to realize more integration between their peoples.

Referring to the recent visit of His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdullah al-Sabah to Iraq, Shaykh Nawwaf said that the visit came out with fruitful and positive results.

Shaykh Sabah Sends Message to Saudi Minister

LD1402164189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1300 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 14 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tuesday sent a message to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal informing him of current Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

The message was carried by a special envoy, head of the Arab World Department in the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador 'Abd al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan who flew to Saudi Arabia today.

Shaykh Sabah told reporters that the message dealt with efforts by the Arab League committee, under his chairmanship, to achieve a diplomatic settlement of the Lebanese problem by bringing together all Lebanese factions to the negotiating table.

The message also outlined the second phase of committee plan, a meeting with Lebanon's spiritual Muslim and Christian leaders, commencing in Kuwait February 20. Shaykh Sabah said the message came in the framework of efforts to inform Arab governments of committee work, and especially Saudi Arabia which commands considerable respect among the Lebanese people.

Amir Confers With USSR Petroleum Minister

LD1502102789 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Feb (KUNA)—Soviet Petroleum Industry Minister Vasiliy Dinkov and his accompanying delegation conferred here today with Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The meeting was attended by Petroleum Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah; Under Secretary of the Petroleum Ministry 'Abd al-Rahman al-Sultan; and Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev.

The Soviet minister arrived in Kuwait last Sunday on an official visit to talks with Kuwaiti officials about issues of mutual interest.

UK Minister Waldegrave Arrives for Talks

LD1402222189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1952 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 14 (KUNA)—British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave arrived here Tuesday evening from Baghdad on an official visit to Kuwait.

Waldegrave was received at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman al-Shahin and other senior officals.

In an arrival statement, Waldegrave told reporters that it was his first visit to Kuwait and it came at a time when the two countries' bilateral relations are "very warm".

He described the visit to the Gulf by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe as "very successful" that Howe left him only "little work to do".

Talks with Kuwaiti officials, he said, will center on regional issues, the Gulf and the Palestinian problem.

Over British relations with Iraq, Waldegrave said despite some previous problems that were not serious in themselves, the two sides have agreed to go beyond that stage, noting that Iraqi-British relations were longstanding and there were business ties.

He hoped his visit to Baghdad had succeeded and said he believed it had succeeded.

British-Iranian relations have been developing slowly and carefully, said Waldegrave who stressed that UK seeks to establish balanced relations in the region.

However, he said, UK wants to make sure that confidence between the two sides is established on proper bases and that British diplomats are treated well.

He added there are still some issues that need to be settled with Tehran such as the prisoners, and the hostages in Lebanon which should be dealt with carefully.

PDRY

Libyan Armed Forces Commander Jabir Arrives

EA1202214189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The general commander of the Libyan Armed Forces has arrived in Aden on a short visit to the PDRY.

He was received at the airport by brother Colonel Salih Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and defense minister, and a number of the Armed Forces commanders and also brother Husni al-Mudir, secretary of the Libyan brotherhood office in Aden.

In a press statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, brother Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir said the purpose of his visit was to extend an invitation to the leadership of the PDRY to participate in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Brother Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir praised the established unitary efforts between the two parts of the homeland and added that he and PDRY officials will discuss relations between the two countries and issues of common interest.

Meets With Presidium President

LD1302192888

[Editorial Report] Tripoli JANA in English carries two reports on Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir's visit to the PDRY. The first report, at 1808 GMT 13 January, says:

"Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir met at noon today in Aden 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Socialist Party in South Yemen. The meeting was attended by Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, the defence minister and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Aden."

The second report, at 1809 GMT on 13 January, says:

"Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas the president of the Presidium of the Supreme Council in South Yemen received this morning Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir within the framework of the nationalist mission he is taking in a number of Arab countries. The meeting was attended by Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad the member of the Political Bureau and minister of defence, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Dali the foreign minister, and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Aden."

Leaves Aden After Talks

EA1402070089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpt] At midday today brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, general commander of the Libyan Armed Forces. During the meeting, the two sides discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to strengthen them in addition to issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by brother Colonel Salih Ubayd Ahmad, member of the Politburo and defense minister, and brother Husni al-Mudir, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Aden. Brother Brig Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir left Aden this afternoon after a short visit to the PDRY. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Receives Visiting Kuwaiti Defense Minister

JN1202124489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, this morning received Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah who is currently visiting Doha.

The meeting was attended by Qatari Defense Minister His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari Ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Ghanim al-Rumayhi, and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Doha Ahmad Murshid al-Sulayman.

The Kuwaiti defense minister conveyed to the Qatari amir the greetings and best wishes of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait.

For his part, his highness the Qatari amir asked the guest to convey his sincere greetings to the amir of Kuwait.

QNA said that the talks held during the meeting dealt with overall regional and Arab developments, issues of interest to GCC member states, and ways to support and enhance the GCC's march in various spheres to serve the interests of the peoples and states of the region and help realize their ambitions. The talks also addressed way to strengthen the strong fraternal bilateral relations.

Leaves After 3-Day Visit

JN1402162489 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, Feb 14 (GNA)—Kuwaiti Defence Minister Shaykh Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and his delegation left Doha today ending a three-day official visit to Qatar at the invitation of Qatar Deputy Amir and Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al-Thani.

The Kuwaiti defence minister was seen off by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani and other top officials.

In a statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY before departure, Shaykh Nawwaf emphasised that his visit to Qatar has achieved the cherished objective and was a good opportunity to exchange view points on some military matters.

Shaykh Nawwaf told QNA that viewpoints of the two sides were identical on enhancing joint consultations, coordination and cooperation between the various military organs in the two countries.

Amir Returns From Consultations in Saudi Arabia

JN1402170189 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, Feb 14 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani returned home today coming from the Eastern Province in Saudi Arabia after visiting the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

H.H. the amir was received by Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani and other top officials.

Talks Begin With Soviet Economic Delegation

JN1402170389 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Doha, Feb 14 (GNA)—Talks began here today between Qatar and the Soviet Union with the aim of boosting bilateral economic cooperation.

The Qatari side was led by the director of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman Al Thani, while the Soviet side was led by the director general of the General Department for Economic Relations with Asia at the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry N. Yemakhonov.

During the talks the two sides exchanged views on the increase of trade exchanges, the possibility of reaching an economic agreement, cooperation in the establishment of projects in a third country and increasing trade exchanges through barter trade, matters related to the establishment of joint projects in agricultural and water domains and the organising of joint exhibitions.

The Soviet delegation arrived here last night on a three-day visit to Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Foreign Minister Departs After Talks

LD1402231189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 14 Feb (SPA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Dhahran this evening. During his visit to the Kingdom, he conveyed a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Leaves for Baghdad Summit

JN1502125489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the Generel People's Congress, left Sanaa this morning for Baghdad to take part in the summit of the quadripartite grouping, which comprises our country, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. The four leaders will discuss, approve, and declare the basic law. [passage omitted]

Salih Receives Iraq's 'Ali, Libya's Jabir

JN1302212489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] In his office this evening brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received brother Hasan 'Ali, member of the RCC in fraternal Iraq, who delivered to the brother leader a message from his brother Iraqi President Saddam Husayn which contains an invitation to attend the quadrapartite summit to be held in Baghdad in addition to concerning new developments in the Arab arena.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; and Iraqi Ambassador in Sanaa 'Abd al-Husayn al-Rifa'i.

In his office this evening, brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Assembly, also received brother Col Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the fraternal Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of subjects and developments of interest to our Arab nation, foremost of which are the efforts exerted to strengthen the march of unity and solidarity between the peoples of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Col 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; and (Milud al-Jadid), acting secretary of the Libyan Arab Bureau of Brotherhood in Sanaa.

Iraqi Envoy Leaves for Cairo

JN1302212789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Fraternal Iraq's RCC member, brother Hasan 'Ali, left Sanaa this evening after a short visit to our country during which he delivered a message to the borther leader, Colonel Secretary General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message contains an invitation to attend the quadripartite summit to be held in Baghdad.

SABA' news agency has learned that brother Hasan 'Ali will travel to Cairo to give a similar invitation to the brother leader, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at the airport by brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; a representative from the presidential protocol; and the brother Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa, 'Abd Husayn al-Rifa'i.

Libyan Army Chief Departs

JN1502072589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Sanaa yesterday following a short visit to our country.

During the visit he met with Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and discussed with him several issues and developments of interest to our Arab nation, foremost of which are the efforts exerted to strengthen the march of unity among the peoples of the Arab nation with the aim of achieving unity among all Arab states. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Comments on Israel, Gulf

LD1502101189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0927 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 15 (KUNA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn was Wednesday quoted as expecting a direct or indirect aggression from Israel but he said Israel would not attempt to do so due to international pressure.

"A direct aggression from Israel is expected. Israel could also instigate Iran to resume the war. But it should be realized that the world at present is not governed by a single will," Saddam told a group of Kuwaiti editors-in-chief in an interview in Baghdad last week.

In the interview, published here today Saddam said the international reaction besides those in the region and Iraq's capability would certainly halt Israel from doing what it wishes.

"Though Iraq is aware of Israeli intentions just as the Israeli enemy is aware of Iraq's capabilities, the international (?constraints) can not be simply ignored. But should they attack us, our response will be direct," the Iraqi president was quoted as saying.

Israel bombed an Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

Speaking on Iraqi-Arab relations, Saddam said there had been a considerable shrink in aid from Arab countries after Iraq's recapture of Al-Faw Peninsula from Iran last April.

"Without meeting with the highest authorities in those countries I can not give an explanation," he said.

Responding to a question on the outcome of his talks with H.H. the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Saddam said both sides have identical views over the issues discussed.

"I believe that everything has become clear now and hopefully we will settle the issue because we feel that it is a burden on our shoulders," he said in an apparent reference to a border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

On the delay in the completion of a Gulf peace agreement Saddam said "we want peace on a durable basis, so we prefer peace based with an agreement."

'Aziz Message to UN Outlines Territorial Issues

JN1402172389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Iraq has stressed its respect for the territorial sovereignty of its neighbor Iran, the non-existence of Iraqi ambitions on Iranian territories, and the desire for reaching a settlement that ensures the rights and dignity of the two sides in accordance with the rules of international law and the provisions of Security Council Resolution No 598. This came in a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Following is the text of the message:

His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations: As Your excellency knows, the Iranian Armed Forces occupied a large part of Iraqi territories for several years. The picture of this occupation of the Iraqi territories, before their liberation in April 1988, was as follows:

Area	Territory in square km
Al-Faw	225
Al-Shalamjah	175
Majnun, including water area	1447
Makhfar Zayd [as heard]	56
Sayf Sa'd [word indistinct]	43
Al-Zubaydat	127
Mehran	182
Mehran, Panjwin, Mawat	1899
Haj 'Umran	170

The Iraqi Armed Forces liberated the 4434 square km [as heard] Iraqi territories after continuous battles between April 1988 and July 1988. During this period, the areas of Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah, Majnun Islands, Al-Zubaydat, east Al-Basrah, Halabjah, and Haj 'Umran were liberated. As Your Excellency knows, the Iraqi Armed Forces, in view of the military requirements of the liberation battles, had penetrated into some Iranian territories, controlling them for a period of time due to military necessity. This was represented by the need to chase the Iranian occupation forces and strip them of their arms and military equipment. As soon as the Iraqi territories were liberated and the Iranian war machine was destroyed, these forces were withdrawn. The area of those territories amounted to 9619 square km.

These substantiated facts underline Iraq's good intentions and respect for the territorial sovereignty of its neighbour Iran. They also emphasize that Iraq has no ambitions and is eager for a settlement that ensures the rights and dignity of both sides in accordance with the rules of international law and the provisions of Resolution No 598. They also underscore the substantial difference between Iraq's principled stand and Iran's position during its forceful occupation of the Iraqi territories.

Iran used to describe its occupation as liberation, and it talked about the resources that those territories contained, as if they had become its own. We had informed you about this in several messages that became part of the Security Council documents. This meant that Iran intended to possess those territories and use them as a base for further occupation and expansion.

I will be grateful if you kindly ensure the distribution of this message as a Security Council document. With my respect.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq. Baghdad, 8 February 1989. [date as heard]

Ramadan, Delegation Leave for Amman Meetings

JN1402110589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad today for Amman at the head of a large delegation to participate in the Iraqi, Jordanian, Egyptian, and YAR prime ministers' meetings due to be held there later today.

Ramadan told INA that he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn, and that the message includes an invitation to the king to attend the quadripartite summit meeting to be held in Baghdad. He added that the Amman meeting will discuss the plan on the proposed council among the four countries and the working papers which were prepared by these countries aimed at reaching a final formula that will be submitted to the quadripartite summit for endorsement.

Ramadan said that the Iraqi paper in this regard is comprehensive and practical, and that it was prepared following thorough discussion by the leadership of the party and the revolution until it has become a mature and integrated paper that rises to the level of the major objectives of this pan-Arab plan. He added that the Iraqi delegation will contribute positively to the discussion to enrich the four working papers and to arrive at a unified and practical formula agreed by all sides.

The first deputy prime minister expressed confidence in the success of this plan. He said that this plan is the extract of all formulas for joint Arab action in the economic and other fields. He stressed that the quadripartite cooperation is a natural result of the fraternal relations that have been developing for 10 years among the Arab countries, especially since these relations were promoted to the level of higher committees after they had been on the level of joint ministerial committees.

The Iraqi delegation includes Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications; Muhammad Mahdi Salih, minister of trade; and a number of officials at the ministries concerned.

King Husayn Arrives To Attend Baghdad Summit

JN1502125889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—Jordan's monarch King Husayn arrived here today to attend the quadripartite Arab summit due to be held tomorrow, Thursday.

King Husayn was accorded an official reception. Heading those who received him was President Saddam Husayn. Also present to receive the king were the RCC members, the ministers, senior Iraqi officials, and members of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Waldegrave Praises Ties With Iraq, PLO Steps

JN1402205589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Feb (INA)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Iraqi-British relations are good and based on firm grounds.

In a press conference today, he added that these relations were enhanced during his talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Iraqi officials.

He pointed out that he delivered a message addressed to President Saddam Husayn from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on bilateral relations and means of promoting them.

Waldegrave said his talks with Mr Ramadan covered economic issues. Iraq, he added, enjoys a firm economic background, and British companies stand good chances to participate in the process of construction and development in Iraq.

He said his visit to Iraq came following a successful meeting he held in Paris last month with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

He said that he discussed with the Iraqi officials the Arab-Israeli conflict and the steps taken by the PLO.

The British minister said the PLO made useful courageous steps, which Britain encouraged. These steps, he added, must meet with a response from the international community.

He said that his country is holding a dialogue with the United States, which is currently formulating its policy on the region.

During his 2-day visit to Iraq, Waldegrave held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the ministers of trade, industry, oil, and culture and information.

Departs 14 Feb

JN1502102889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation, left Baghdad last night following a 3-day visit to Iraq within the framework of a tour of the Arab region.

During the visit, the British minister held talks with the Iraqi officials on means of promoting bilateral relations. He acquainted himself with recent developments in the negotiations between Iraq and Iran and Iraq's clear stand on this issue. The talks also dealt with the situation in the region.

Trade Minutes Signed With USSR 11 Feb

JN1102182489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Feb (INA)—Iraq and the USSR have agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade and diversify the goods and commodities exported through

increasing the number of contracts signed by the two countries and through improving the terms for financing the contracts involving the exportation of machinery and equipment from the Soviet Union to Iraq.

According to the joint minutes on bilateral trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation signed today, the two sides agree to expand the formulas of cooperation by developing the oilfield west of Al-Qurnah, especially the sixth station of that field. The minutes also provide for effecting additional drilling in the north Rumaylah oilfield and for contributing to the dry gas pipelines project. They also call for increasing the Soviet contributions to the setting up of a thermo-electrical power station, not to mention the presentation by the Soviet side of advice and technical services to three electrical stations and the provision of the materials needed for the electrical power station networks in Iraq.

The minutes, signed by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side to the talks, and Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet petroleum industry minister and head of the Soviet side to the talks, also call for enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of mining industries.

The two countries agreed to develop bilateral relations in the fields of hydro-electric stations, irrigation projects, studying water resources in Iraq, and the possibility of benefiting from them in various spheres. They also agreed to develop bilateral scientific and technical cooperation and to expand cooperation in the domain of grain silos.

In a speech delivered at the minutes signing ceremony, 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim affirmed that the current meetings of the joint permanent committee constitute a new starting point for deepening bilateral cooperation during the forthcoming stage.

On his part, Vasiliy Dinkov indicated that the signing of these minutes will contribute to the promotion and deepening of bilateral economic, trade, industrial, and technical relations.

The signing ceremony was attended by the members of the two sides to the joint permanent committee, which will hold the meetings of its 19th session in Moscow in June next year.

Soviet Oil Minister Leaves

JN1202113489 Baghdad INA in English 1040 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 12, INA—Mr. Vasiliy Dinkov, Soviet minister of oil industry left Baghdad for Kuwait today after leading his country's side to meetings of the Iraqi-Soviet Permanent Joint Committee concluded here yesterday.

Yesterday, the Iraqi-Soviet sides to the committee meetings signed minutes for technical, scientific, economic and trade cooperation between the two countries and for expanding the volume of trade, diversifying exchanged commodities, the projected gas pipeline, and increasing contribution of the Soviet side to the construction of a thermo-electric station in Iraq.

The Soviet minister was seen of by Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, minister of oil and head of the Iraqi side to the committee meetings.

CSSR Minister Discusses Economic Cooperation

LD1302140189 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1300 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Iraq—Karel Julis, federal deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering and electrical engineering, has had talks in Baghdad with four members of the Iraqi Government on various aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

His talk with Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, concerned prospects for the further development of cooperation in metallurgy and engineering, including the production of tractors, compressors, and irrigation equipment.

Karel Julis also had meetings with the ministers of finance, trade, and oil.

Signs Cooperation Minutes

JN1402203389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] This evening, Iraq and the CSSR signed joint minutes of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The minutes were signed for Iraq by Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, and for the CSSR by Karel Julius, deputy premier and minister of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry. The minutes determine the framework of future cooperation between Iraq and the CSSR in the field of chemical and petrochemical industries, fertilizers, manufacturing of machines and equipment for production, electricity, high pressure networks, the production of pumps and irrigation equipment, bricks and ceramics, insulators, and the manufacturing of big and small tractors, with the production of the tractor engine in Iraq.

In two speeches during the signing ceremony, Husayn Kamil and Karel Julius stressed the intent of both countries to promote and deepen cooperation between them in the economic and industrial fields. The signing ceremony was attended on the Iraqi side by the undersecretaries of the ministry of industry and military industrialization and a number of ministry officials. On the CSSR side, the ceremony was attended by the deputy minister of foreign trade, the undersecretary of the ministry of metallurgy, engineering, and electrotechnical industry, and a number of specialists.

Arens: UK-'Arafat Meetings 'Will Not Harm' Ties
TA1502151489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has invited Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to meet her in London at whatever time he sees fit. Our London correspondent Avraham Barzilay reports that Thatcher's invitation was delivered through Foreign Minister Moshe Arens whom she met at her residence today at noon.

Minister Arens described the conversation as fruitful and beneficial. He added that Mrs Thatcher has an important role to play in the common effort shared by both Britain and Israel to further the peace process. Responding to a question, Arens added that the meetings held between British Government officials and 'Arafat will not harm relations between Israel and Britain. Arens explained that both countries agree that the peace process must be renewed. This must be done carefully, however, after fastidious planning, and must take into account the complexity and sensitivity of the issues demanding solution.

Arens is currently dining with his British counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Arens Discusses Peace, Human Rights Report
TA1002132589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Feb 89 pp 4, 13

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Menahem Shalev; date, place not given—italics as published]

[Excerpts] [Shalev] Mr. Arens, after nearly two months on the job, what is your assessment of Israel's international standing at this time, especially in Western public opinion?

[Arens] Generally, I would say that Israel is on the defensive. Western public opinion has been seeing for the past 14 months reports on television in which seemingly unarmed civilians including women and children are confronted by soldiers in what seems to be full battledress. And I think it's natural that anybody who does not know the context of these confrontations or the history behind them is very likely to sympathize with the civilians and not with the soldiers.

[Shalev] You have spoken several times of the need for Israel to come up with a diplomatic initiative.

[Arens] The peace process in the Middle East is one which moves at a glacial rate. It took Egypt 30 years and five wars to come and negotiate with Israel. Ten years have gone by and no other Arab country has come forward. I don't know that we can change the basic rate of progress in the Middle East toward an accommodation with Israel, but I think we should take the initiative to see if we can't move things along.

[Shalev] Is there any chance that the current positions of the government will be accepted by the world as an initiative?

[Arens] I think any initiative we put forth will be the kind that we would expect would be implemented, otherwise it's just hot air.

[Shalev] One of the principles of the Shultz initiative last year, and the secretary stated this several times, is that no peace process can move forward without the acceptance of the peace-for-territories principle. Do you accept that premise?

[Arens] No. No, I don't. And I think the conclusion that was reached by Begin and Al-Sadat 10 years ago at Camp David that the gap in perceptions, aspirations and fears was too wide to be bridged immediately and a permanent settlement reached. [sentence as published] But, rather, you had to go towards an intermediate settlement which would create a better atmosphere and bring about a narrowing of gaps—and only then go on to negotiations on a final settlement. I think that this was right at the time and I think it is right at the present time, if anything even more correct now than it was then.

[Shalev] But the Camp David accords specify that the talks on the final settlement should be based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. Doesn't that imply that by endorsing Camp David Israel endorses the principle of peace-for-territories as the basis of the final settlement?

[Arens] 242 appears in the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, and was accepted by the Israeli government many years ago. To the best of my knowledge there has been no change in that position.

[Shalev] And don't you interpret 242 as specifying peace for territories?

[Arens] 242 doesn't say that in so many words. It's a mistake to focus just on the territorial dimension; that's not the way to achieve peace.

If you look at 242, you'll find that the wording is not unambiguous. There was an attempt made to make the wording totally unambiguous, by putting in a small three letter word—"the"—before the word "territories;" and, if that small word had been in there, it would have meant that by accepting 242 Israel accepts the principle of returning to the pre-67 borders. That word is not in there, and it's not by accident that it's not in there, and it's not by accident that very same 242 talks about the need for secure borders. And there are very few people around who think that the'67 borders are secure borders for Israel.

Just what part of the territories Israel would retreat from—and I remind you that Israel has already retreated from more than 90 percent of the territories that came

under its control in the Six Day War—and just where the secure boundaries for Israel are, that's a subject for interpretation; it bears directly on the permanent settlement and therefore again I think it is not something that is usefully discussed at the present time.

[Shalev] Secretary Baker last week spoke of a Soviet role in the Middle East peace process. Last year, you opposed such a role, or at least attached very stringent conditions to such participation. Have you modified your views on that?

I didn't attach stringent conditions: I opposed an international conference which would involve the participation not only of the Soviet Union but also China and France, and I still don't think that it is a good forum for carrying out direct peace negotiations. So whatever thoughts I had on the Soviet Union were subsumed in my comments on the international conference, and nothing beyond that.

I would say, in principle, any country might contribute to the peace process, if it has good will, if it's truly interested in the stability of the area and if, in addition to that, it has something to contribute in ideas as well as in other dimensions as well.

I think the Soviet Union falls in that category, and I have no doubt, certainly after my talks with Mr. Shevardnadze, that the Soviet Union would like to see peace and stability in the area. That may not always have been Soviet policy.

My impression is that they want to contribute in that area, and since they have influence with some countries in the area I would say in principle, yes. [passage omitted]

[Shalev] The State Department Human Rights Report describes substantial human rights abuses by Israel. Are we violating human rights in the territories?

[Arens] I know Mr Schifter, and he's a very fine man, so my initial, intuitive response on being told that he has written something or the other is to treat it with considerable respect. Generally, I can tell you that when you have to contend with violence on a scale and scope that we have to deal with, it probably is impossible to maintain the standards of respect for human rights that we do ordinarily in Israel in day-to-day life. When you have people burned alive by Molotov cocktails being thrown at the buses, it's not easy, and maybe impossible.

[Shalev] Fourteen Israelis have been killed since the uprising began, compared to 360 Palestinians killed and thousands wounded. We are not being accused of dealing with a problem, we are being accused of dealing with it harshly, of using excessive force.

[Arens] The argument presumably is that we could have prevented people from being fire-bombed by using more lenient measures, that somebody knows how to do it better than we do, and could teach us a lesson on how to do it without there being these kinds of casualties on the roads and without what are considered to be violations of human rights. I doubt whether anybody can give us such a prescription.

When you talk about asymmetry in numbers, that's a specious description. It's not that you've got Jews on one side of the football field and Arabs on the other, and if this is the rate of casualties there must be something wrong there. What you've got is thousands, tens of thousands of Palestinians engaged in violence attempting to endanger the lives of people on the road, faced by, in many cases, a very small number of Israelis.

If it hadn't been for the work of the IDF, then instead of tens of Jews who have been killed on the roads, it might easily have been hundreds or thousands.

[Shalev] But many of the casualties are caused by the fact that the IDF goes into the towns and villages...

[Arens] It's like any attempt to combat violence: do you wait for it to come, or do you try to take some preemptive measures? You can wait for it to come, but the results are liable to be catastrophic. Or you can go into villages, if you have information that people have been organizing this kind of activity.

[Shalev] I would like to quote an interview which you gave to THE POST in 1975, in which you said: "There is no reason why Israel should refuse on principle to talk to the PLO. On the contrary, Israel should agree to talk to anybody and everybody. The real point is what do we say to them. We have to tell the PLO, or anybody else, that they have finally to learn to live with Israel—an Israel which stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the River Jordan. And we have to talk to the PLO, as to the Arab governments, face to face." You seemed to have thought then that it was not important whom we talk to, but rather what we say...

[Arens] I hope you're not going back to my birthday-...That's your interpretation, and I don't think that it is correct to make such a universal conclusion that it's not important whom we talk to but what we talk about. Mainly because I think you want to talk to people that matter, that have a constituency, people who can make a commitment, people that it's worth talking to.

You have to see who are the Palestinians, and then decide whom you want to talk to. There are 700,000 Israeli Arabs within the sovereign boundaries of the State of Israel. We don't think of negotiating with them. They are part of our body politic. They play their role in formulating Israeli positions.

There is the Palestinian State to our East, called Jordan. That's not Israeli propaganda, that's a political and geographic fact. And if you insist on differentiating between East and West Palestinians, then 60 percent of Jordan's population comes from West of the Jordan

River, 1.8 million of them, more than Palestinians living in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. So it's inconceivable that you could address the Palestinian problem without talking to Jordan.

And King Husayn doesn't want to talk to us, and it's important to understand the reason for that; the man is afraid. He is not afraid that Israel will attack Jordan. He can go on without a peace treaty forever.

[Shalev] He would have talked to us under the terms of the London Agreement, but that agreement was not adopted by the government of Israel.

[Arens] Talking to us means talking to us *directly*. It should be under "terms." If you want peace, then sit down and talk to us, like Al-Sadat came and sat down to talk peace with Israel. King Husayn had the perfect opportunity 10 years ago at Camp David. Why didn't he do it? He's being terrorized, he's being intimidated, he hasn't forgotten Black September.

The organization from which these threats emanate is the PLO. They are the roadblock to peace in the area.

So you're left with the Palestinians in Judaea and Samaria, who are all Jordanian citizens by the way, and according to concepts accepted in the world, Husayn should be the one to negotiate for them, as well as for Jordan. It's hard to contemplate a meaningful peace treaty in the area without the King.

I think that we should be looking for ways to engage them in a dialogue, and there too, the PLO is the obstacle. Everybody heard Yasir 'Arafat's recent threats to anybody who doesn't toe the line. So sure, you can knuckle under, you can give in. You have a mafia which threatens everybody—sure, let's go talk to the mafia! I don't think that's the way to peace in the area.

[Shalev] Do you doubt that the Palestinians genuinely see the PLO as their representative?

[Arens] I don't think we know. When you have this type of terrorism directed against them, when you have this type of punishment exacted...Last month, four or five people were killed there (by their own people).

[Shalev] So how will this change?

[Arens] The most important thing on the way to peace is to eliminate this fear. This is the major obstacle. And giving in to 'Arafat, or standing in line to shake his hand, like people in Europe—that's not the way to do it.

Shamir Aide Denies Contacts With 'Arafat

TA1202082989 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Rome correspondent Yosi Bar]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In an interview with the Rome newspaper IL MESSAGGERO, Yasir 'Arafat said that "Israel is sending many messages to the PLO through his representatives in the territories or via channels in Europe and other places."

In response to a question as to whether he is referring to the Israeli Government, 'Arafat said that it involves government officials. "In the past we also had indirect contacts. During the siege of Beirut there were contacts via Philip Habib."

Arye Meckel, the prime minister's political adviser, responded to 'Arafat's announcement last night in an unequivocal manner: "There are no contacts with 'Arafat nor will there be any." [passage omitted]

Shamir Discusses Prospects for Peace

AU1502095489 Vienna Television Service in German 2007 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzaq Shamir by ORF correspondent Hans Benedict; interview in English with superimposed German translation; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Benedict] Mr Prime Minister, will you recommend that President Bush stop talking with the PLO?

[Shamir] I will try to convince him that his dialogue with the PLO is not only useless but also harmful because it is not conducive to peace.

[Benedict] In Israel, everybody speaks about a Shamir peace plan, but nobody knows anything about it. What are people talking about when they talk about your peace plan?

[Shamir] I do not know. The public discussion does not correspond to the real situation. I do not think that anybody has a precise and detailed peace plan.

[Benedict] Do you have a practical proposal on how to end the Palestinian uprising?

[Shamir] In any case, the riots must come to an end—with or without political initiatives—before we talk about peace. The uprising must come to an end. I do not think that the population can endure the suffering and hardships without the prospect that this will end.

[Benedict] If negotiations will finally be held, as you suggested, they must, of course, include the possibility of an autonomy and proposals about the aim of the autonomy, that means what status the territories will ultimately be granted. Do you think that this can also be an independent Palestinian state?

[Shamir] I suggest not to anticipate the results of these negotiations. If we talk about them now, we will never arrive at an interim solution and no final agreement will be concluded.

Shamir on Occupied Territories, Indian Relations

BK1302103789 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 31 Jan 89 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by K. Sriram, EXPRESS News Service, in Jerusalem; undated—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Jerusalem—Israel is ready to grant self-rule and autonomy to Palestinians in the "occupied territories" of Gaza and West Bank immediately and is prepared to have direct negotiations with its Arab neighbors and the Palestinians.

"We are very flexible... are ready to go a long way should the talks commence," declares the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in an interview with this correspondent and three other visiting Indian journalists here.

The frail, 73-year-old Polish-born Israeli premier heading a two-party national government in which his Likud Party shares power with opposition Labor Party, speaks with quiet intensity on the Palestinian problem and the need for "normal Indo-Israeli relations."

He makes it clear at the outset that the flexibility of approach would not include any negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, which, he is convinced, has not changed its avowed goal of destroying the State of Israel and had also not yet given up terrorism. "We know better about the PLO," he insists on being reminded that certain friendly governments had been counselling him to start negotiating with the PLO and bring peace to the region, which has in the past 13 months seen PLO-inspired "Intifada" (uprising) of Palestinians in the occupied territories. "Negotiations with the PLO will not bring peace."

The main target is to get peace with our Arab neighbors-...through negotiations". These negotiations, chiefly with Jordan (which to date is "at war" with Israel), Egypt and Palestinians (obviously minus the PLO) living in the occupied territories would be able to initiate a two-phase peace process. In the first phase, the Palestinians would be able to get self-rule and in the second talks for deciding the permanent status of Palestine could be held "without pre-conditions" and with "a clear target of getting an acceptable solution to Gaza, Samaria and Judea (the occupied territories).

"That's the most realistic way. It could serve the interests of Palestine and it will not endanger the security interests of Israel". Mr Shamir also clarifies his government's persistent opposition to any UN-sponsored international peace conference. His government does not believe that such a conference "of elements outside the region" could be helpful.

"We are opposed to the Arab demand for an international conference on (a matter of) principle....for it would impose solutions on us which are not acceptable to us." Their opposition was not because of the likelihood of PLO's participation in such a conference.

Face-to-face negotiations are best, he argues, citing the successful Camp David accord with Egypt as an example. "It won't be easy, it'll take time... but is the only way," he says and then hastens to caution that one should not talk of the "ultimate outcome" of such negotiations.

But did not the prospects of such a dialogue look dim particularly as the Arabs had rejected the Israeli proposal time and again? "We have to be optimistic," he says. He would be visiting Europe and the USA in the coming month to discuss how the peace process could be initiated. It is during this visit that Mr Shamir may unveil a new package with more concessions, most political observers in this "Eternal Capital" of Israel believe.

It is on the subject of relations with India that the Israeli leader warms up instantly. "We are ready to have the best relations with India...it's absolutely necessary to have normal relations with India," he declares. Israel maintains diplomatic relations with so many countries which do not accept its stand on the tine questions. The Indian Government too, he hopes, would revise its policy and establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, which only has a consulate in Bombay at present. If India wished to open a visa office in Tel Aviv his government would be willing to discuss the issue.

"We respect very much the Indian people who belong to one of the most ancient civilizations and desire to have normal and friendly relations with them. He will also be "most happy" to welcome the Indian Prime Minister to Israel, and as the interview comes to a close, conveys a message "of friendship and goodwill to the people of India.

Peres Discusses Solution to Palestinian Conflict

AU1502095689 Vienna Television Service in German 2007 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman and deputy prime minister, by ORF correspondent Hans Benedict; date, place not given; interview in German with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres sticks to the exchange formula, which has been rejected by Prime Minister Shamir and which involves the exchange of territory for peace.

[Begin Peres recording] Well, we are ready for a compromise concerning an exchange of territories. This is binding. However, Likud does not agree. We want Palestinian elections now, before autonomy is granted. Likud wants elections as part of an autonomy. We will not ask questions about the past of a candidate, he must only make it clear that he is against terrorism. This is the condition for running as a candidate. [end recording]

Peres, Rabin Seen Waging 'Ultimate Battle'
TA1502122989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 9

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "The Last Curtain"]

[Text] Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin are like two weary, aging vaudeville actors attempting, after four successive flops, to make a comeback in the complex part of King Lear. This task is likely to end pathetically. The audience is indifferent, the critics skeptical, and their fellow actors—busy with gossip and ferment—are competing in preparing themselves behind the scenes for the parts they believe will become available after the last curtain falls.

Hilel, Qeysar, Shahal, Ya'aqobi, Bar'am, and others are bracing themselves in preparation for 1992 and learning the lines in the event they are called to replace their colleagues. Mordekhay Gur says an era is over. Abba Eban sees his party as a sunset. Who can deny that the Labor Party is undergoing a twilight period?

The immediate problem of Peres and Rabin—there were those who dubbed them Rosenkrantz and Gildenstern (after Stoppard's play, of course, not Shakespeare's)—is that they are stuck in the two most problematic roles in the government and that the government is ruled by the Likud and not by them. The two act as Shamir's Arab laborers who perform all the menial tasks. The joke passed around in the Likud says that Rabin will hit, Peres will cut, and Shamir will deal with peace. This, however, is not funny. If they fail, not only will they finish their careers, but they are also likely to introduce their party into the category defined by Eban as "the fallen historic parties."

Peres himself referred to his ministry as undergoing a grave crisis—a crisis he discovered only after he took office. This time, unlike the 1984 situation that followed two Likud governments, Peres himself was vice prime minister when the crisis was taking place. A justifiable question is posed these days: How could Peres fail to see that Nisim was running an elegant election economy, leading the country to the havoc he has found after the elections? Quite a few alarm signals were sounded last year, but Peres has only just heard them? [question mark as published]

Rabin's attitude to his field of responsibility is equally questionable. He has failed to cope with the intifadah [uprising], although he had predicted its imminent demise several times. Now, when the United States is in a state of shock over the report on our deeds and voices are heard in favor of cutting aid to Israel, Rabin still expects the residents of the territories to sober up, this time within 6 to 9 months.

In this field, like in the field of the economy, success does not seem easily attainable. Barely 2 months after Peres entered his new job, Qeysar twisted his arm, obtaining a series of concessions, including the retraction of two major reform components: He managed to raise the marginal tax to 51 percent and freed the vacation allowance from tax. The fact that Qeysar decided to postpone the Histadrut elections without consulting anyone is not merely a slap in the face to Peres; it exposes him to further blackmail. The odds that Peres will succeed are not unequivocal. If no avalanche occurs, it will be considered an achievement, but not one that can be viewed as a sweeping success he can take to early elections in 18 months, as he would like to do.

They are criticized in every field by every stratum. Peres is accused of a series of tactical errors, such as the fact that he did not include Shamir in his talks with Husayn from the beginning, thus torpedoing his own initiative. Conversely, he is accused of not having broken up the government after his initiative was foiled. He is charged with erring in not staying in the opposition after the elections, instead of which he agreed to serve 4 years under Shamir and the Likud orientation. Conversely, he is accused of losing rotation through his maneuvers with the religious parties. The criticism of Rabin is that he acts and sometimes talks like a Likud man.

One of the most serious charges is that the two cleared the political arena for Shamir and the Likud. Like laborers whose hands are filled with disagreeable menial work, they ceased to inspire or lead their party, which nowadays speaks in half a dozen voices. Peres says that after Shamir returns from the United States and gives his approach a try, it will be his, Peres', turn to propose a plan of his own. It is odd. What about the Rabin plan? Is it so insignificant as to be unworthy of a mention? What about their joint preelection plan?

And if he does have a plan, what is he waiting for? For Shamir's failure? What will happen if Shamir returns from the United States with a spark of progress and with an understanding with the new U.S. Administration? Will everything not focus then on the problematic sectors for which Peres and Rabin are responsible? Having been accorded U.S. backing, the thrilled and proud Likud heads will wait to see how they can profit if Rabin and Peres fail.

The pair, perhaps the best candidates the Labor Party could place in command after Golda Meir's retirement, have proved to be luckless generals. They have quarreled with and competed against each other and, all in all, together and apart, without realizing that society has

undergone a change, they led their party to four successive failures at the ballot box. It is doubtful whether there are many countries in which such a team would consider itself fit to run for the fifth time.

Peres and Rabin are doubtlessly waging their ultimate battle. In a country where miracle is not a four-letter word, we will be the last to exclude the possibility of a miracle, that is, the possibility that within 1 year, the entire country will buzz with excitement over the pair's brilliant successes in the economy and in the territories. If that does not happen, however, there is a sad question: Will these two veteran actors consent to let the curtain fall on them only? Or will they take their party with them?

Peres Sends Message to Mubarak on Peace Treaty

TA1402154789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres, who is visiting Elat, delivered a message to President Mubarak through the local Egyptian consul. Mr Peres met the consul and demanded that Egypt fulfill all its obligations according to the peace treaty. Peres specifically pointed out the issue of freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba, which was raised during the Tabah talks but removed from the agenda by the Egyptians. [passage omitted]

U.S. Opposition Cited as Sela' Promotion Reviewed

TA1202085289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Because of U.S. opposition, the IDF has reconsidered its intention to promote Colonel Avi'em Sela'. Senior Israeli military elements in the United States asked for the U.S. Administration's reaction to such a move. Due to opposition by U.S. Justice Department officials, the administration made clear that promoting Sela' would be viewed negatively.

Army sources said that had Ronald Reagan agreed to remove the negative attitude to Sela' adopted during the Pollard affair, the interests of that couple could also have been advanced. A source close to the affair said it was wrong to consult with the Americans on promoting Sela' since it shows exaggerated deference to the United States. "We have suddenly reached the stage where U.S. Justice Department officials decide what ranks to give IDF officers."

First Soviet Ship in 22 Years Docks at Ashdod

TA1302141689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] A Russian ship, the Vitya Novitskiy, docked at Ashdod port this afternoon. This is the first Soviet ship to dock in Israel since the 6-Day War. The Soviet ship came to Israel to collect a cargo of 80 tons of provisions and clothing for victims of the earthquake in Armenia. Igor Nikotian, the ship's captain, said at the welcoming ceremony that he is happy to be the first captain to arrive in Israel for 22 years, and that as a citizen of the world, he hopes for peace and many additional meetings with Israelis. This was reported by 'Ezra Yanuv.

Hammer Meets Hungarian Foreign Minister

TA1302195089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer, who is currently on an official visit to Hungary, met Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that Varkonyi told his guest that the visit is another step toward the expected renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Minister Hammer said that any state wishing to participate in the political dynamics of the Middle East must first study Israel's special security problems.

UN Envoy Bein Meets PRC Counterpart

TA1202114789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Yohanan Bein yesterday conferred with Li Luye, his Chinese counterpart, in the offices of the PRC's UN delegation. They talked about the means of maintaining an open channel of communication between the two countries through UN representatives, as was agreed by the Israeli and PRC foreign ministers in a meeting they held in Paris several weeks ago.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Bein congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the Year of the Snake, which is starting now. The two ambassadors discussed the situation in the Middle East and exchanged opinions about possible political developments in the region.

'Former Terrorists' May Be Banned From Office

TA1402190489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] A last-minute effort is being made to stop former terrorists from sitting on local authorities after the local elections at the end of the month. Four or five former terrorists are running in the elections, and one has already been banned under existing legislation. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] The former terrorists are Israeli Arabs and are running for local authorities in the Galilee or the Triangle. Three of them were released in the prisoner exchange with Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front—General Command. The rest had completed their sentences.

One was disqualified from running by the Interior Ministry under the existing local authority election law which says anyone convicted of a security offense cannot run in local elections for 5 years after his conviction. For the other candidates, this period had already elapsed,

and the chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, the Likud's Yehoshu'a Matza, said it is intolerable that such people should hold public office in Israel.

Matza is supported not only by the other right-wing parties on his committee, but also by Labor, Center-Shinuy, and the Citizens Rights Movement. They proposed to ban anyone convicted of a security offense from taking his seat on a local authority not for 5 years after his conviction, but for 6 years after his release from jail. This means that even if some of the former terrorists are elected on the 28 of February, they will not be able to take office.

The only member of the Knesset Interior Committee to oppose the bill was 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah of the Arab Democratic Party. He said: To amend the law so close to the elections was tantamount to interfering in the electoral process. [end recording]

Interior Minister Arye Der'i has submitted a similar bill to the government.

Rabin Briefs Cabinet on Unrest-Related Events
TA1202170089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Reporting to the Cabinet today, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that in an unprecedented demand, leaflet No 34 calls upon residents of the territories to stage a 3-day strike. Minister Rabin pointed out that the leaflet also attacks the recently presented political initiatives. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Cabinet decided that the defense establishment will formulate a reaction to the Schifter report.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 12 February adds that "the defense minister said that he had come to the conclusion that open schools and kindergartens increase violent incidents and that is why they are closed. Rabin said, however, that the policy will be reviewed from time to time."]

Sharon Urges Extending Israeli Law to West Bank
TA1402140289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Israel lacks the national will to exist, said Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon today at the Knesset before a meeting of the parliamentary lobby for Eretz Yisra'el. Sharon demanded that the government instruct the IDF to put an end to violence in Judaea and Samaria. We have a problem of defeatism in Israel, Sharon maintained.

Our Knesset correspondent reports that Sharon demanded that Israeli law be extended to Judaea and Samaria soon, and asked for immediate legislation to provide the security forces with the tools they need to handle the riots.

Sarid: Settlers Engaged in 'Punitive' Actions
TA1302121689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Two opposition MKs [Knesset members] wrote to the Attorney-General yesterday warning him that civil war is likely unless a reported settlers' militia in the West Bank is disbanded by the authorities.

Yosi Sarid and 'Oded Zucker (Citizens Right Movement) wrote Attorney-General Yosef Harish that the fully-equipped settlers' militia was operating around the clock on missions of a "punitive, initimidatory and retaliatory" nature and on a fully organized basis.

The allegations were categorically denied last night by settlement leaders, with Yisra'el Har'el, chairman of the Council of Settlers in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, terming the letter "rubbish."

They said the militia is made up of companies (plugot), each of which draws its manpower from a particular locality. The plugot are commanded and coordinated from a sophisticated communications headquarters controlling the whole of the West Bank, they wrote Harish. The staff of the headquarters is made up of settlers' leaders some of whom double as senior members of the settlers' organizations.

The plugot are equipped with modern arms and communications equipment operating on different network levels, and mostly supplied to the settlers by the IDF directly, Sarid and Zucker wrote.

They charged that the West Bank headquarters staff have drafted a range of contingency plans, to cater for most possible political and security scenarios in the territories.

The militia leadership draws encouragement from what it sees as a permissive attitude on the part of the security forces and law-enforcement agencies, they wrote.

Members of the plugot have been instructed to prepare themselves for confrontations with the IDF if the circumstances so require, they wrote.

Sarid and Zucker urged Harish to act forthwith to disband the plugot since their further existence would make civil war inevitable.

Although the two left opposition MKs gave no source for their revelations, Sarid five years ago possessed unimpeachable information in regard to the existence of the Jewish anti-terror underground, and was one of the first to warn publicly of its activities, at a time when cabinet ministers scoffed at his allegations.

Baraq Knows of No 'Militia'

TA1402135289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that he is not aware of settlers having established any militia, as Knesset Member Yosi Sarid maintains. Causing damage to Arab property or organizing demonstrations without obtaining prior IDF approval constitute a violation of the law, Baraq said. Nevertheless, the people who do these things are individuals; there are no grounds, therefore, for calling this a group phenomenon among the settlers.

The deputy chief of staff pointed out that inside the settlements, the settlers should organize themselves in frameworks similar to the Civil Guard. Outside the settlements, however, they must be subordinate to the regional military commander.

Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports that Gen Baraq believes the IDF is adequately prepared for the missions it is entrusted to carry out in the territories. If, however, there are alternative suggestions, he noted, the army will be prepared to hear them.

500 Jewish Families Plan Move to Gaza Strip

TA1302192689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The first stage of the Jewish settlement campaign for the Gaza Strip has ended, and about 500 families are planning to move to the area. This was announced today at a news conference in Jerusalem. Shlomo Berger has the story:

The campaign was initiated about 2 months ago by the 17 settlements in the Gaza Strip and adopted by the government. Funds are being provided by the ministries of housing and trade and industry, as well as by the Jewish agency.

The coordinator of settlements in the Gush Qatif area, Datya Hershkowitz, says people were not deterred by the unrest in Gaza, and response was surprisingly good. [passage omitted]

Today, there are 3,000 Jews living in the Gaza Strip. Datya says the goal is to increase this number 10 times by the turn of the century. [passage omitted]

The prime minister's adviser for settlement affairs, Mikha'el Deqel, said eight new settlements will indeed be established according to the coalition agreement and with government funds. He said the allocation for the new settlements will total 50 to 60 million shekels this year.

Labor, MAPAM MK's Meet With Al-Husayni

TA1502052989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Knesset Members from the Labor and MAPAM parties met last night in Jerusalem with PLO activist Faysal al-Husayni. Ya'ir Tzaban and Eli'ezer Granot of MAPAM along with Hayim Tzadoq and Hayim Ramon of Labor took part in the meeting.

Initiatives to advance the peace process and the proposal for the elections in the territories were discussed. The participants said the talks were good and took place in a friendly atmosphere. Tzaban said afterward he expects more frequent meetings between Israeli political figures and leaders from the territories who identify with the PLO. Al-Husayni said he wants to hold more talks with Israelis in the future.

Further on Meeting

TA1502073589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Report by Yarom Deqel]

[Text] The participants in last night's meeting in East Jerusalem wanted to keep it secret, but like most such meetings it leaked out. On the Israeli side, there were four participants: Hayim Ramon, Alignment Knesset faction chairman, and former Justice Minister Hayim Tzadoq, both of the Labor party; MAPAM Knesset Member Ya'ir Tzaban and MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot. The Palestinians were represented by Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the Institute of Arab Studies, who was released a short time ago from administrative detention; Dr Sari Nusaybah; and journalist Ziyad Abu Zayyad.

The meeting was held at the Notre Dame Hostel in East Jerusalem and lasted 2 hours. Few details were disclosed about the meeting. The sides exchanged views on the situation in the territories and among other things discussed the possibility of holding elections there. They agreed to hold similar meetings in the future.

IDF 'Thoroughly Trained' for Chemical Warfare

TA1302090289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Report by 'Amos Harel]

[Excerpt] As public awareness of chemical weapons grows, the IDF is also showing greater interest in the issue. The Engineering Corps' Center for Chemical Warfare is conducting dozens of advanced training courses for soldiers each year. Colonel A., the center's commander, told us that officers and soldiers are being thoroughly trained to counter such an attack. There is not a single army exercise in which protection against chemical attack is not included.

[Begin Col A. recording] I believe that chemical weapons cannot determine the outcome of a war, but an inadequately prepared force could collapse and find its troops frightened and demoralized. The correct way to deal with such a phenomenon is simply to be prepared and conduct exercises in a simulated chemical warfare battlefield. [end recording]

Col A. said we have made great progress in investing in an infrastructure and defensive maneuvers.

[Begin Col A. recording] The IDF is trying to put into practice all the lessons learned from the Iran-Iraq war. It recognized the threat and its implications very early and determined the objectives and what is expected of the IDF if chemical weapons are employed against us. Among other things, it was decided that the IDF must be capable of carrying out its missions even under chemical warfare conditions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Baraq Discusses IDF

TA1402163889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Major General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, noted that the number of demonstrations and firebombs thrown has decreased recently, and that the IDF is about to resume a training level similar to that maintained before the uprising.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 14 February reports that "There are four times as many military personnel in Judaea and Samaria as before, said Gen Baraq. At the peak of the uprising the number was six times higher."]

IDF commanders in Judaea and Samaria have conferred with the heads of the Alfe Menashe Council and demanded that they stop carrying out defense tasks in the area. The settler leaders, however, replied that they will continue doing so until they are able to feel safe while driving on the road nearby.

This afternoon a stone was thrown at the car of an Alfe Menashe resident near the 'Ofra Moses junction. No one was hurt.

No Live Bullets Used at Qezi'ot

TA1102202489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] The wardens in the Qezi'ot military detention facility in the Negev did not use live ammunition to disperse the rioting prisoners in yesterday's [as heard] incident at the facility. A preliminary IDF investigation shows that the wardens used tear gas and rubber bullets. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe adds that the prisoners had refused to attend the evening count, after which an uproar developed. At the facility, 9 of the 11 wounded prisoners were treated. Two were evacuated to Soroka Hospital and were brought back to the prison today.

4 Rioters Sentenced

TA1302185789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The military court in Gaza sentenced four young men to prison today after convicting them of participating in riots. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that three of them were sentenced to 18 months imprisonment each, while the fourth received a 12-month sentence. In addition, the four were also fined and received suspended sentences of various durations.

Curfew Imposed on Nur al-Shams

TA1302203389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] The IDF imposed a curfew on the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm this evening after a stone was thrown inside the camp at an IDF soldier's car. The car's windshield was smashed but the soldier was not hurt. The security forces are searching the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that a long curfew previously imposed on Nur al-Shams had been lifted only yesterday.

Stonethrower Sentenced

TA1402180889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] A military court in Ramallah today sentenced a resident of Al-Zahiriyah who was convicted of throwing rocks at security forces to 18 months in prison with an additional 30 months suspended. He was also fined 1,500 shekels. [passage omitted]

Nur al-Shams Curfew Off

TA1402184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Quiet prevailed in the territories today and hardly any incidents were reported. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports:

It is difficult to point out a uniform pattern in the incidents of the past few days in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The general trend is toward calm and relative quiet, at least in terms of the intifadah [uprising]. Yesterday, however, people were wounded in Rafah, and one person was killed and several injured in Samaria when two supposed duds exploded.

Today, at any rate, there were no reports of injuries in the Gaza District; studies were conducted and people went to work as usual. The IDF imposed a curfew on two Rafah neighborhoods and ordered the residents to clean the streets and the walls. [passage omitted]

Judaea and Samaria were also calm today. The curfew imposed yesterday on Nur al-Shams after the windshield of an army vehicle was smashed by a stone was lifted today. A resident of Nabulus was reportedly wounded by IDF fire. The army is investigating this report. [passage omitted]

A boy was injured this evening by stones thrown at No 25 bus near Shu'fat. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the boy was hit in the face. The security forces arrested a man suspected of throwing the stones.

Golan Druze Stage Strike

TA1402201889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Druze residents of the Golan Heights staged a general strike today on the 7th anniversary of the Israeli annexation. Unlike previous years, the police kept a low profile; the Druze, for their part, have promised not to disturb the peace. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports:

Today's Druze strike commemorating the Israeli annexation was noted for its quiet. While all business and agriculture was strikebound, no one left for work in the fields, and thousands of students did not attend school today, peace was maintained.

This is the 7th year that the Druze have marked the day they were annexed to Israel. In past years, we witnessed clashes between the police and demonstrators. Galilee District police, however, have reached a tacit agreement with Druze notables. Accordingly, only a small number of the policemen usually employed in the area on such tense days were present today. Meanwhile, Druze religious leaders have influenced the residents not to confront the police. [passage omitted]

During the time that has elapsed from last year's violent clashes, a sort of system of understandings between the residents and the authorities has developed: fewer confrontations, more dialogue, and the opening of the Syrian border for visits to Jabal al-Druze. Next week another Druze delegation is scheduled to leave the Golan carrying some 100 tons of food for relatives in Syria. Today it can be stated that violence, if not hostility, has been totally neutralized on the Golan Heights. This is not the case as far as the fear the Druze feel for the Syrians is concerned.

Further on 14 Feb Events

TA1502105089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 89 p 1

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] The IDF has launched a comprehensive inquiry, involving several branches of the army, the Air Force and the police, into the recent spate of explosions in the West Bank that killed and wounded Palestinian children in areas northeast of Nabulus and in the Jordan Valley, military sources said last night.

IDF investigations into Monday's [13 February] two explosions, in which a Palestinian teenager was killed and five persons were wounded, have established that the blasts were caused when the victims handled unexploded shells. [passage omitted]

In clashes yesterday in the West Bank, troops shot and wounded a 9-year-old boy in the hand in clashes with protesters in Nabulus, according to reports from the city.

Palestinians said that in stone-throwing clashes at the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, two teenage girls were wounded by rubber bullets, and troops fired tear gas into several homes. A 40-day-old baby and two women aged 40 and 23 were overcome by the fumes and treated at Al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i Hospital, according to hospital sources. The IDF had no reports of the incident.

Also in Nabulus, assailants hurled a petrol bomb at a tent in the down-town police headquarters compound, but there were no casualties, residents reported. Troops closed off the area.

In Bethlehem, merchants shuttered their shops at the start of a three-day strike to protest against tax raids and the impounding of property at local pharmacies. Pharmacists and doctors held a sit-down strike at the local Red Cross offices.

Protesters in Hebron burned a police vehicle during stone-throwing clashes, Palestinians said.

Palestinians also reported clashes in three villages in the Tulkarm area:

At Bazzariyah, protesters stoned a civilian and military vehicle Monday night. Troops fired rubber bullets, wounding three villagers.

At Buruqin on Monday, stonethrowers shattered the window of an Israeli car. A jeep carrying troops who raided the village, crashed into a stone roadblock, and one soldier fell from the vehicle, injuring his head. He was evacuated by ambulance.

Troops ferried by helicopters raided Qarawat Bani Hasan Monday night, imposing a curfew and arresting eight persons.

Janin al-Bitar, 46, the treasurer of the Nabulus Red Crescent, was released this week after nine months' imprisonment, including six months administrative detention. She was arrested for receiving money from Fatah.

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, two people were lightly injured in clashes with troops.

Settlers Stop Patrols

TA1502054589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Settlers at Alfe Menashe in Samaria called off their street patrols at midnight last night. This follows a meeting between the settlers and the army. Shlomo Berger reports:

[Begin recording] [Berger] The settlers began the patrols Monday night after a car was stoned near the entrance to Alfe Menashe. Yesterday, senior army officers in Samaria met with the settlers for 5 hours and warned them that the IDF is responsible for security in the area. Still, the army agreed not to prevent the settlers from waiting for family members along the road. [passage omitted]

I asked Alfe Menashe town's secretary Yosi Feldman why the settlers decided to stop the patrols.

[Feldman] We had a very good meeting with the army authorities in the area yesterday, and a few measures were mentioned that are going to take place. [passage omitted]

[Berger] Feldman said he is not permitted to disclose just what measures the army has taken. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Terrorist' House Sealed Up

TA1502073489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Security forces this morning sealed up the home of a resident of the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp near Nabulus. He belonged to a terrorist squad made up of 14 members, all residents of the camp, uncovered recently by the IDF. The squad is suspected of attacking locals for collaborating with Israel and of instigating disturbances.

4 Soldiers Receive Prison

TA1502112489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Feb 89 p 5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Four Golani soldiers, who had cruelly harassed a bound and blindfolded Arab and had, among other things, extinguished a burning cigarette on him and kicked him in every part of his body, were sentenced to imprisonment and demoted to the rank of private. The soldiers received the sentences with indignation and are considering taking further steps. [passage omitted]

The Northern Command military court sentenced three of the soldiers to 1 and ½ months in prison and demotion from sergeant to private. The fourth defendant received 3 months in prison and was demoted from staff sergeant to private. [passage omitted]

New Leadership in Territories Analyzed

TA1202105089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Feb 89 p 9

[Commentary by Re'uven Pedatzur: "Anatomy of a Materializing Leadership"]

[Text] The key to a return to calm in the territories is to be found in talks with the local leadership and not in plastic bullets. Even the defense minister—the loyal representative and initiator of the military force school of thought—which has failed miserably in its attempt to end the intifadah [uprising]—has reached this simple conclusion. However, sending Shmu'el Goren to talk to Faysal al-Husayni at Kefar Yona prison, the message he tried to bring him, and the passion to rush and inform the entire world about it, show that Yitzhaq Rabin con'inues to ignore the events taking place under his very nose.

In his tour of Qezi'ot prison last week, Rabin reminded the detainees—who made clear to him that their leaders in the territories are prepared to talk to him only if the PLO agrees—that since 1947 the Palestinians have been continuously wrong in refusing to take their fate into their own hands rather than transfer it to a foreign leadership. The defense minister's remarks and his attempts to drive a wedge between the inhabitants of the territories and the PLO prove that, since December 1987, it has been the Israeli side that has been continuously wrong.

To those who study the activities of senior defense establishment officials in the territories, it seems that in their operational programs, the West Bank leadership still has the traditional role of acting as a bridge between Jerusalem and Amman. A quick look at the present leadership in the region between Janin and Hebron, however, shows that those who in the past served as messengers for King Husayn's palace have been put on ice during the past year; their place has been taken by a leadership now materializing under the aegis of the continuing uprising. Only talks with the new leaders have any chance of leading to calm in the territories.

As part of a fascinating process, local leaders in the West Bank are developing national stature; also, a new hierarchy is slowly evolving, which classifies the players in the leadership game in accordance with their importance and standing in the rebellious Palestinian society.

The events of the past year have led to an important social change whose influence on the formation of a new leadership is of critical importance. There has been an almost total disintegration of the patriarchal social setup, the result of which is a rebellion by the new generation against their parents. The traditional leadership has lost its political assets and its influence on events in the field. Its place is being taken by a tri-level leadership, each of which has a different task in the ongoing activities of the inhabitants of the territories.

The hierarchy is headed by those whom the military experts call "drawing-room leaders," those who occupy the parlors and not the casbah alleyways. The members of this stratum are those who traditionally led the PLO supporters in the territories. They have built up a great deal of power during the intifadah.

They derive their political clout from two sources: The backing of the PLO—which views them as its representatives in the territories—and the excellent relations they have built up over the years with foreign elements, especially through foreign consulates in Jerusalem.

The main "drawing-room leaders," some of whom are known to the Israeli public, are Hanna Sinyurah, Radwan Abu 'Ayyash, Sa'ib 'Ariqat, Sari Nusaybah, Mustafa 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, Ziyad Abu Ziyyad, Jonathan Kutab, and Raja' Shihadah. Attempts by security elements to put Faysal al-Husayni at the top of this group inflate the man's importance beyond what he is due. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that if he stays out of prison, Al-Husayni will become part of the "drawing-room leaders."

These personalities lack a firm base in Palestinian society and still do not constitute a national leadership, but even hotheaded young people understand that at this stage there is no alternative. That is why the masses grant these personalities legitimacy, especially as long as their actions are viewed as following the PLO path and instructions.

The "drawing-room leaders" depend on the PLO almost totally and are still incapable of taking independent initiatives. Any attempt to shove them in the direction of an arrangement unacceptable to the PLO leadership in Tunis is doomed to failure. On the other hand, a correct Israeli attitude toward them—and taking into account the character of their relations with the organization's leadership in Tunis—can lead to the development of a legitimate national leadership that might also moderate PLO positions in negotiations on a settlement with Israel.

Lower in the hierarchy are those who belong to the Unified National Command of the Uprising, mainly a technical body whose main job is to publish and disseminate the leaflets in the territories. Its nucleus is made up of some 10 people in their thirties and forties, mostly members of the free professions or else small businessmen. The membership is not fixed, changing either because of the imprisonment of some of its members by the IDF or because of a built-in system of regular membership rotation.

The representatives of four organizations are represented in the Command: Fatah, the communists, the PFLP, and the DFLP. Their political clout is not great, and the chance that they will develop into a national leadership is also not big. Another task they fulfill is to act as a link between the masses and the "drawing-room leaders."

The lowest level in the hierarchy is the "street leaders." They are the thousands who lead the youngsters in hurling stones and firebombs. They do not yet have any importance beyond their neighborhoods, but experts believe that if the intifadah continues for several more years, a real leadership will develop from among the firebomb hurlers.

"We are now in an intermediate stage," a senior officer well versed in what is going on in the West Bank believes. "It is the stage in which it is still possible to hold a dialogue with a sober leadership. If we do not do it now with the clear knowledge that this leadership is carrying out the orders of the PLO, then in the future we might find ourselves in a situation in which we will not have anyone to talk to in the territories, even if we desire it very much."

It is advisable for the defense minister to listen to the advice of the detainees he met at Qezi'ot and to the intelligence evaluations of the professionals in the establishment he heads. Both stress that in the territories there is someone with whom to hold a dialogue and that it must be done now. Deliberately avoiding the issue might lead to the formation of a leadership in the territories that compared to which the PLO will be viewed as a moderate element aspiring to peace and compromise.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Shevardnadze Visit
JN1402162389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Amman—An official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has made the following statement:

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will pay an official visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during the period 19-20 February. Shevardnadze will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials. The Soviet foreign minister's visit to Jordan embodies the ties of friendship and understanding between the two states. The visit also expresses the desire to continue consultation and coordination between them on issues of common interest and the constructive responsibility demonstrated by the USSR on the regional issues as well as its determination to exert earnest efforts to resolve them.

During the talks, views and opinions will be exchanged on the developments in the Palestine question and the positive developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international stands. Topics of discussion will also include the ongoing efforts and efforts to convene the international conference to achieve a permanent, comprehensive, and just solution in the Middle East. Bilateral relations between Jordan and the USSR and ways to develop and strengthen them will also be discussed.

King Husayn Receives Invitation to Baghdad Talks
JN1402174689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has received a written message from President Saddam Husayn including an invitation to attend the quadripartite summit meeting scheduled to be held in Baghdad Thursday.

The message was delivered by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, when King Husayn received him in Amman today. The Jordanian monarch expressed thanks for the invitation saying he will accept it and attend on the scheduled date of the summit.

King Husayn Visits 5th Royal Armored Division
JN1302195789 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, visited the 5th Royal Armored Division at noon today. He was received by the commander and officers of the division. At the beginning of the visit, his majesty was briefed by the commmander of the division on its missions and duties. Then his majesty talked to the officers of the division, expressing his absolute pride and confidence in the Jordanian Armed Forces and the efficiency of the members of the Armed Forces.

Then his majesty reviewed a number of issues of interest to the Arab region as well as developments in the Arab and international arenas. His majesty talked in detail of the Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestine question, reviewing the stages it has passed through as well as Jordan's pan-Arab role based on the Great Arab Revolt and its noble message. He touched on Jordan's efforts on all levels to support the Palestine question by crystallizing a unified Arab position, the importance of which can be demonstrated through international detente and its possible positive results that will contribute to bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

At the end of his address, His Majesty King Husayn said that the next few days will witness the birth of an Arab grouping, which will comprise Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, and the YAR and which will be a nucleus for a bigger unionist Arab grouping. His majesty was accompanied on the visit by Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and his majesty's adviser for Arab Army affairs; and Staff General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of the staff of the Army. The meeting was also attended by a number of aides to the chief of staff and senior Armed Forces officers.

UN Urged To Counter 'Dangerous Situation'
JN1102095789 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Jordan has called for immediate and effective action by the United Nations to counter the dangerous situation in the occupied Arab territories. The remarks were made by Jordan's permanent UN delegate, Mr 'Abdallah Salah, who was addressing a special session of the Security Council on Israel's practices. Mr Salah said the situation in the occupied land was deteriorating daily, particularly after the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He said Israel's inhumane measures and violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people have become more intense and aggressive.

Mr Salah said that the more Israel persists in its stubbornness, the stronger the intifadah becomes, adding that the intifadah has put things in their true perspective, highlighting the Palestinian identity in an unequivocal form.

Sfayr To Attend Arab Committee Meeting in Kuwait

NC1402181389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has decided to bypass protocol and to travel to Kuwait. A statement issued today by the Maronite Patriarchate in Bkirki did not refer directly to Patriarch Sfayr's personal participation in the Kuwait meetings. Bishop Bisharah al-Ra'i explained that an official statement on the patriarch's participation in the meetings in Kuwait will be issued tomorrow.

Patriarch Sfayr today chaired a meeting of patriarchs, bishops, and representatives of the Christian communities in Lebanon. The conferees discussed the invitation addressed to Patriarch Sfayr to attend a meeting with the Arab Committee in Kuwait.

Bishop al-Ra'i explained that the conferees reviewed the six principles declared by the committee in Tunis and examined them with a view to coordinating their positions. They thanked the Arab League for its interest in the Lebanese issue and supported the participation of the invited spiritual leaders in the committee meetings. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Lebanese Forces-Army Conflict

'Limited' Clash in Monte Verde

NC1402193289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] A limited clash took place between a Lebanese Army military police patrol and members of the Lebanese Forces [LF] manning a position in Monte Verde at 1845 today. The details: Earlier, members of an Army military police patrol kidnapped four LF personnel while their vehicle was being filled with gasoline at a gasoline station in the area.

A short time later, Army military police opened fire at an LF position in Monte Verde, after which a limited clash ensued. Tension currently prevails in the area and the officials concerned are trying to deal with the situation on the ground.

Meanwhile, the Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued a statement saying: A military vehicle carrying five military personnel was ambushed on the Al-Mansuriyah-Bayt Miri Road this evening. There were some casualties.

The Army Command called on all military personnel to report immediately to the nearest military center.

Forces Take Preventive Measures

NC1402201289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] To clarify the incident that took place in the Monte Verde area at 1845 today, the fifth branch in the LF General Staff Command issued the following statement a short time ago:

An LF officer and three other personnel passing in the Monte Verde area were kidnapped by Lebanese Army military police and some commandos. In the meantime, a reinforced Lebanese Army military police patrol advanced in the direction of an LF position in Monte Verde and opened fire. The personnel manning the position returned the fire.

Immediately afterward, all Army units were alerted. The LF General Staff Command, in turn, adopted the necessary measures to protect its men and positions against any possible attack.

The General Staff Command calls on all officials to be vigilant and to resolutely prevent any act of aggression against LF members or positions.

"Violent" Clashes in E. Beirut

NC1402201489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] According to the latest reports from East Beirut, violent clashes in which all types of weapons are being used are taking place in Al-Ashrafiyah between the Al-Yarzah Army and the LF.

Gunfire Resumes in Monte Verde

NC1402203089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Exchanges of gunfire resumed in Monte Verde at approximately 2100 tonight. Rounds of machinegun fire also can be heard in Jisr al-Basha and near the palace of justice [in East Beirut].

RFL Notes 'Full Mobilization'

NC1402205989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Tension continues to prevail in East Beirut following the Army's full mobilization. The LF responded to the Army's move by taking the necessary measures to protect its personnel and centers. [passage omitted]

Military information became available tonight about certain moves by the Army:

First, the Army has withdrawn Battalion 101 from the Bikfayya front; second, the Army withdrew Battalion 83 from Suq al-Gharb; and third, the Army withdrew several companies from other locations. According to the same information, the Army is deploying the abovementioned units inside East Beirut.

VOL Details Security Situation

NC1502063489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The security situation now is as follows:

Clashes involving the use of heavy- and medium-caliber weapons are raging in the areas of Al-Mukallis, Chevrolet, Al-Hayik Circle, the 'Ayn al-Rummanah outskirts, and the furthest part of Jisr al-Ma'maltayn [in East Beirut]. At times, the clashes become intense.

According to some reports, the LF elements are continuing their deployment all along the coastline from the Karantina to Jubayl and passing through Nahr al-Mawt, Antilyas, and Upper Al-Matn, Al-Matn, and Kisrawan. The Army commandos and military police are trying to advance in a bid to open a gap so they can infiltrate to the coastal road.

We have been informed that some of the injured have been moved to some hospitals. Fires have broken out in the areas of the clashes. Using roads in the tense areas is considered very dangerous.

LF Member, Others 'Kidnapped'

NC1502065789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] We were informed last night that a group of the Army commandos and military police in Hursh Thabit entered the house of Butrus Khawand, member of the LF Command Council and of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau. The group kidnapped Khawand and insulted and threatened him before returning him to his home.

Two Army personnel carriers of the Lebanese Army military police entered the offices of the LE NOUVEAU REVEIL paper. The two carriers' crews detained the editors and employees. They attacked and insulted the reporters after cutting the power supply. They then kidnapped journalists Joseph Ruqaybah and Louis Fadil and conveyed to the paper's officials a decision by the military police banning the publication of the paper today.

According to security sources, the homes of Phalangist party members in the Al-Hadath and Al-Hazimiyah areas were raided by the Army's military police and commandos. The LF centers in Tallat al-Sakhrah in Kafr Shima came under shellfire.

A commando group in 'Awkar tried to advance in the direction of the Autostrad to cut the main road in Antilyas. A popular defense group resisted the commando group and forced it to retreat.

'Extremely Violent' Clashes

NC1502071989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to the latest reports from East Beirut, the extremely violent clashes, involving various types of weapons, are continuing in most East Beirut areas between the LF and Army. The clashes in which artillery, tanks, and rockets are being used, left scores of people dead or wounded. Smoke is filling the sky over East Beirut. Attempts are being made by both sides to storm each other's positions and to bring areas under their control. The clashes are now concentrated in the areas of Al-Mukallis, Chevrolet, the Al-Hayik traffic circle, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah suburbs. Movement on the roads in area of the clashes is risky. [passage omitted]

Two shells fell in the Al-Dana area in West Beirut, a short time ago, wounding two people.

It has been reported that units of the Army's 5th brigade closed the coastal road in the Sarba area at 0500 today. It has also been learned that the LF positions in Adma and Al-Ma'amiltayn came under violent artillery fire from Army artillery emplacements. According to some reports, the Army is in control of the areas of Al-Mukallis, Sinn al-Fil, Hursh Thabit, Al-Hadath, Kafr Shima, and Furn al-Shubbak. [passage omitted]

6 Army Soldiers Killed

NC1502080889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Lebanese Army's guidance directorate in Al-Yarzah this morning issued the following communique on the military situation in the eastern areas:

As a result of the attacks launched by gunmen using various types of automatic weapons, rockets, and artillery against the Army positions along the contact lines and on the Suq al-Gharb front in Bdadun, Humal, Kafr Shima, and 'Arayya and because of ambushes against military personnel on the roads, the Army has suffered 6 martyrs, including an officer, and 14 wounded. Three others have been kidnapped. Army positions are still coming under attacks at the time of this communique. The Army is still maintaining a defensive posture.

Patriarch Urges Cease-Fire

NC1502075589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] [Maronite] Patriarch Sfayr addressed the following appeal to warring parties in the eastern areas a short while ago:

In the inferno of the bloody battle raging in all Lebanese areas in eastern and northern Beirut, and out of mercy for the innocent inhabitants, we urgently appeal to the hostile brothers fighting each other to cease fire at once.

This is so the road may be paved for good-willed mediators to make the necessary efforts to end this tragic situation in which the citizens are living and to avoid further killing and destruction.

The lives of people belong to their Creator and not to the warring parties. The homeland is not only for a certain category. It belongs to all citizens. Let the fighters fear God and preserve their lives and homeland by ending the fighting. May the Lord help all to stop the bloodshed. We appeal to all the faithful to pray in this time of repentance and fasting.

LF Command Responds to Appeal

NC1502073089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0723 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] We have just received the following from the LF command:

In response to a call by Patriarch Sfayr, the LF command announces that it is ready to cease fire on all combat lines at once.

LF Issue Appeal to Army

NC1502081689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The LF Popular Defense units have addressed the following appeal to the men of the Army:

Our comrades in the Lebanese Army: We are not trying to disturb your discipline or your true military spirit. We do not seek to sow the seeds of rebellion in your hearts. We only wish to remind you that your command is leading you to a goal opposite to that you had volunteered for and pledged loyalty.

We would like to draw your chiefs' attention to the fact that your enemies are not the young men of the LF, and they will not [word indistinct] this violence in dealing with them. We are defending the same cause and standing side by side in the same trench with you. Your destructive weapons should instead be pointed in the opposite direction.

The battle between us will not continue forever. You will return to your homes and your families tomorrow. You will return to your neighbors and kin in the LF.

This is an appeal from the bottom of the heart, from your brothers in arms and objectives. Contact your leaders and enlighten them. In the battle among brothers, there will be no victor and vanquished. The biggest loser is you, us, and the entire society.

Michel 'Awn Phones Sfayr

NC1502085689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] We have just learned that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn telephoned [Maronite] Patriarch Sfayr a short time ago to inform him that he responds to his appeal for a cease-fire.

VOL on Efforts To End Clashes

NC1502090089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpts] Efforts to curb clashes in the eastern areas [of Beirut] have succeeded to a large extent. Bkirki [seat of the Maronite patriarchate] has become the center of endeavors and contacts with leaders in the Army and the LF.

We have learned that [Maronite] Patriarch Sfayr intends to invite concerned Lebanese leaders to meet in Bkirki and handle the situation in a basic manner. [passage omitted]

A responsible military official in the LF has stated the following:

In response to Patriarch Sfayr's appeal, and to reiterate the Lebanese Forces' willingness to commit to the cease-fire, the forces command has orders all its fighters, units, and branches to effect a unilateral cease-fire at once, because this fighting is futile and aimless and had been imposed on us.

In the meantime, the Army command's guidance directorate has issued a statement which says: O, armed men, Ask those who dragged you into this war among brothers to give you one convincing justification for their fight with you. If you are convinced by their answer, continue the war; if you are not convinced, drop your weapons and head for your barracks, where your brothers, sons, and families are.

Army Fires on Residential Areas

NC1502083289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0813 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Military police personnel and army commando units continue to fire rockets at residential areas. Missiles fell a short while ago in the J'ita area. Earlier today missiles landed in (Qib Yaqut) Al-Judaydah, Ruwaysat, and Rabya.

Army Seizes LF Barracks

NC1502092889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Fighting is continuing in the eastern area between the Lebanese Army and the LF. In the latest report on the situation, a security source said that the areas of Monte Verde, B'abda, and Al-Hadath have come under the Army's control. One of two LF barracks in 'Ayn al-Rummanah has fallen to the Army, and the second is about to fall. The Antilyas area is also about to fall to the Army.

The LF 'Arayya barracks is now under Army control. Battles are currently concentrated in the Chevrolet area where, it has been learned, the LF have mined the road

with antitank mines. The Lebanese Forces are now shelling Army positions in the Nahr al-Mawt area. The Army soldiers are returning the fire.

In an attempt to draw attention away from what is happening in the eastern area, two shells fell this morning in the Al-Dana area and another in the municipal playground area. There were no casualties. Another shell fell in the sea, in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area, at 1030 today.

VOL Reports Clashes Abating

NC1502093989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The efforts undertaken by Patriarch Sfayr and his contacts with concerned leaders in the eastern areas of Beirut, particularly with the commanders of the Army and the LF have yielded fruit. Clashes have abated noticeably in various areas, except for limited sporadic skirmishes in the outskirts of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the Chevrolet area, Al-Hayik, Al-Dikwanah and Antilyas, where a number of fires have broken out. [passage omitted]

Army Violates Cease-Fire

NC1502094489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0920 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Statement issued on 15 February by the Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces General Staff]

[Text] Despite the cease-fire agreement, the Army continues to move mechanized vehicles toward the areas of the clashes to reinforce its positions. It is directing tank, artillery, and rocket fire at our positions, particularly in the areas of Al-Hayik and Salome. The LF continue to abide by the cease-fire.

RFL Says Clashes Ease

NC1502095989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 0932 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Clashes have eased off between the Lebanese Army's military police and commando units on one hand and the LF on the other in a number of the eastern areas including the Chevrolet, Gallerie Sim'an, Al-Hayik, Al-Mukallis, and Al-Dikwanah. Earlier today, bombardment reached several populated areas, particularly in Byaqut, Al-Judaydah, Al-Ruwaysat, Al-Dawrah, Al-Ashrafiyah, Al-Zalqah, Ju'aytah, Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Naqqash, 'Awkar, and Al-Rabiyah, causing a number of casualties. Two members of the public were killed in shelling on Furn al-Shubbak.

Clashes Erupt Again

NC1502100389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0952 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The clashes, which had relatively subsided as a result of the contacts carried out, have erupted again in the Hursh Thabit and Al-Mukallis area. Dozens of shells fell there suddenly a short while ago.

Army Launches 'Big' Attack

NC1502113089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1112 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Second statement issued on 15 February by the Fifth Branch of the LF General Staff]

[Text] Despite the LF agreement on a unilateral cease-fire, units of the Army's commandos and military police as well as units of the 101st battalion, which was withdrawn from the Al-Duwwar front, launched a big attack toward Antilyas on the Al-Rabi axis and toward Nahr al-Mawt on the Al-Rumi axis at 1230 today. This compelled the LF to repulse the attack. The Army has exploited the cease-fire to withdraw more of its units on the various fronts and send them to the battleground, exposing those in the contact areas to danger.

Al-Khatib Forces on Alert

NC1502115289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Commenting on the events in the eastern areas, acting Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib has been quoted as saying: We regard ourselves as interested parties in the attacks by the Lebanese Forces against our comrades in arms in the eastern area. Instructions have been given to military officers in all areas to extend any support requested by our forces present there.

Maj Gen al-Khatib added: The Army command has asked the 6th brigade to facilitate evacuation operations and to provide humanitarian assistance to the comrades. He said that alert measure No 3, the highest state of alert, has been put into effect among the Army forces.

Reportage on Operations of Syrian Forces

Security Plan Implemented

NC1502082389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The Syrian Arab forces this morning began implementing the security plan in the southern suburb. A security source has informed us that the Syrian forces are running patrols in the suburb in an atmosphere of total calm.

An Amal Movement source said that the plan aims to prevent the appearance of gunmen in the suburb and prevent attacks and anything that could aggravate the situation. The source said that the southern suburb plan is part of the West Beirut security plan.

All the residents who had left the southern suburb during the recent clashes have returned to their homes.

Al-Asad Receives New Soviet Ambassador 14 Feb
JN1402131289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received the credentials of the new USSR ambassador to the SAR this morning. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Presidential Affairs Minister Wahib Fadil, and Major General Zuhayr Ghazal, secretary general of the president's office, attended.

At 1030 this morning, the president received the credentials of USSR Ambassador Aleksandr Ivanovich Zotov. The president then received him after the presentation ceremonies. The ambassador conveyed to his excellency the greetings of the Soviet leadership and of President Mikhail Gorbachev. The president asked him to convey similar greetings.

Discussion revolved around bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation and means to promote them in all fields. The president wished him success in his mission.

The ambassador was welcomed and seen off in accordance with the usual ceremonies.

Damascus Radio on 'Meaningful' European Role
JN1302161389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab land has proved its clout in the international arena, prompting questions about the future of the territories. Washington has attempted to somehow respond to these developments. The European Community has sought to catch up with the Americans lest it be left behind. It is not yet clear whether the EC plans to lead or trail the American procession. The Europeans, their representatives maintain, have no initiative of their own on the Middle East. However, they say they are keen to aquaint themselves with the respective positions of the region's states and that of the new American Administration, maybe to bring themselves into harmony with the latter.

The EC representatives touring the region are charged with familiarizing themselves with the respective positions of the parties concerned. After their exploratory tour, some of the representatives will probably meet with the new American secretary of state, James Baker, for a firsthand briefing on the new American approach to complete their picture of the latest Mideast developments.

The Europeans may not go beyond the current moves. The point, however, is how satisfactory such European moves will be to the Arabs. The Arabs have always argued that Europe has a potentially meaningful role in the Middle East, because it is independent and mindful of Arab as well as European interests in the region. The Arabs have always counted on the European nations taking a more appreciative and understanding posture on Arab suffering. Further, the Arabs have counted on this understanding to be translated into action toward lifting this suffering and removing the injustice that has been done them thanks to Israel's aggressive bent and its supporters.

The Arabs have always welcomed whatever European stands have begun to take shape in this direction from the Venice declaration to the current moves. Hence, what the Arabs expect from the Europeans at this juncture is neither the extent to which they adapt to new world developments in the Mideast conflict nor the extent to which their moves dovetail with those of one or the other superpowers. Rather, the Arabs would like the current European moves to produce an independent, effective scenario that may help bring about peace and security in the Middle East—a scenario inspired by a direct European interest in the establishment of peace and security that can only be achieved on the basis of meeting the just demands of the aggrieved Arab party.

Europe has its weight in the international arena, and if such clout is now assuming its economic dimensions, it must translate into political action. To the extent that Europe aspires to be an economic bloc indpendent of the superpowers, one expects it to excercise an independent role in international politics. If the Europeans want to translate their independent decisionmaking on the Middle East, they only have to adapt their position to the requirements of justice and their interests. They must work to advance the peace process in this region by promoting a UN-sponsored international conference to work out a Mideast settlement, an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab land, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Syria, which has consistently encouraged any European moves to bring about just regional peace, now extends a vigorous hand of cooperation and support to all new European efforts toward that end.

Afghanistan

Rebels Fire 2 Missiles at Kabul; 5 Killed

LD1402174289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Criminal extremists protected by Pakistan have committed another unforgivable crime: firing two surface-to-surface missiles at Kabul.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that one of these missiles hit the residential area of (Khvajeh Kharabad), opposite a bakery where dozens of children and women were waiting to get bread. As a result, four children and one older person were martyred. Houses in the vicinity were damaged.

The other missile hit a nonresidential area in (Tappeh-ye Wazir Akbir Khan) which did not cause any loss of life or damage.

Block Salang Highway

BK1502091189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Feb 15 (AFP)—Mujahidin rebels have taken several Afghan Army posts along the Salang highway linking Kabul with the Soviet border and had control of the strategic road Tuesday [14 February], resistance sources said here Wednesday.

"The Salang highway was still cut Tuesday evening when we last received news," Mas'ud Khalili, spokesman of the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat-e Eslami group said.

The rebels had taken several Afghan Army posts around the highway and attacked a major airbase at Bagram north of Kabul with rocket launchers, destroying several aircraft, he added.

Jamiyat fighters had captured several security posts and taken prisoner 155 Afghan troops, including 10 officers, in attacks since Saturday, the spokesman said. One mujahidin fighter was killed and six wounded.

Fighting was continuing along the Salang highway north of Kabul. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Combat Operations 13-14 Feb

LD1402220489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Armed extremists hostile to the peaceful life of our compatriots attempted to reveal their ill intentions by firing heavy weapons on residential areas and security posts. In return fire from the Armed Forces, 71 terrorists were crushed and 59 were injured. An authoritative source of the Armed Forces noted this and reported the military situation in the country over the past 24 hours to BAKHTAR as follows:

Parvan: Terrorist elements backed by the Pakistan Army fired heavy weapons on the security posts and residential areas of Monareh, Deh Sorkh, and (Jabarast). Armed forces units responded. As a result of artillery and air strikes 18 extremists were killed and a ringleader called 'Abdul Qadir, associated with the Jamiyat group, was seriously wounded. One missile launcher and one DShK machinegun were destroyed. One security officer was also wounded.

Nangarhar: Extremists fired on Kameh bridge and Sorkh Dival, (Rodat), with heavy weapons, which the Armed Forces resolutely responded to. As a result of an artillery exchange and air strikes, 24 terrorists were killed and 22 were wounded. Two recoilless guns and two missile launchers were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of a security forces' ambush in the area of Chaprahar, (Rodat), 14 extremist elements were crushed, 18 were wounded, and 2 were captured. One recoilless gun and two rocket launchers were seized by the security forces.

Paktia: Extremist elements fired heavy and light weapons on the security posts and residential areas of the towns of Khowst, Jaji Meydan, and Towr Ghar. Security forces responded.

Qandarhar: Qandarhar airport and Qandarhar city residential areas and security posts came under heavy weapons fire from extremists. The Armed Forces responded vigorously with heavy weapons. As a result of artillery fire, three fortifications and one missile launcher were destroyed. During the incidents five security officers were wounded.

Herat: As a result of an exchange of heavy weapons fire, 11 armed extremists were killed and 8 were wounded in the periphery of Herat city. One weapons depot was destroyed.

Four extremists were killed in the return fire of the Armed Forces in the area of Shindand and some of their weapons were captured.

According to another report, the number of youths joining the Armed Forces increases every day. Over the past 24 hours, 450 brave youths have been dispatched to area military units after registering with the appropriate commissariat in the capital and province.

Commodities Convoy Arrives in Kabul From Hayratan

LD1402180589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] A convoy of basic commodities arrived in Kabul today from the Port of Hayratan. BAKHTAR reports the convoy—carrying flour, wheat, petroleum, and other goods needed by the residents of our cities—consisted of dozens of vehicles. The arrival of convoys carrying flour, ghee, and petroleum continues every day.

Second Session of Resistance Shura Convened

BK1402153189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The second formal session of the consultative council of Afghan mujahidin was held in Islamabad [as heard] today. The session was attended by almost all those 400 members who have come from Afghanistan and other countries. The session discussed setting up an interim government in Afghanistan after the completion of the Soviet troops complete their withdrawal.

Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi presided over today's session. He briefed the consultative council about the progress made regarding participation of the Afghan Shi'ite groups based in Iran. The council then adjourned till tomorrow. The supreme council of the Islamic Unity of Mujahidin of Afghanistan also met today in which leaders of the seven groups of the alliance participated.

Radio Pakistan's representative has learned that the supreme council has yet to arrive at a decision regarding the number of representatives of the Iran-based groups in the consultative council.

7-Party Group Proposes Cabinet

BK1502140589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1357 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Feb 15 (AFP)—Pakistan-based Afghan resistance groups presented a 28-minister government to an assembly of their delegates Wednesday, marking the day when the Soviet intervention of Afghanistan officially ended.

Spokesman 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf made the announcement to the press here, saying fundamentalist hardliner Ahmed Shah would be proposed as prime minister.

Delegates of Iran-based resistance groups continued to stay away from the assembly, or shura, protesting what they say is lack of representation.

Mr. Sayyaf, a fundamentalist from the same rebel faction as Mr. Shah, said some cabinet positions could be developed later for the Iran-based groups, who are mostly Shi'ites.

Also absent from the meeting here Wednesday was the current chief of the Pakistan-based resistance groups, Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, a moderate who has boycotted the shura for the past two days because of the rift with the Shi'ites.

The shura would discuss the proposed government over the next few days to decide on endorsement, said Mr. Sayyaf.

Mojaddedi Absent, 'Fallen Ill'

LD1502113989 London AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS in English 1232 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Feb 14, AAP—The consultative council of the Afghan mujahidin was due to start today at 10 a.m. to discuss a formula for the interim government, Professor Sayyaf, spokesman of the shura said in Islamabad.

Yesterday, the supreme council of the IUAM [Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin] met for three hours in which all the leaders of the 7-party alliance took part, except Prof Mojaddedi who has fallen ill. He was represented by his son, Dr. Zabihullah Mojaddedi.

Meanwhile, informal meetings and conversations were going on among the commanders, lawyers, distinguished religious figures and scholars in different areas of Haji camp with a view to sorting out matters of interests.

Mojadeddi 'Boycotts' Meeting

BK1402142889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—The chief of the Peshawar-based mujahidin resistance alliance Tuesday pulled out of a crucial assembly which had convened to form an interim government for Afghanistan, resistance sources said.

Sibghatullah Mojaddedi boycotted Tuesday's one-hour session because his offer of 100 seats in the assembly, or shura, for Iran-based mujahidin had been rejected mostly by fundamentalist components of the Peshawar alliance.

The meeting was adjourned again before it could formulate an agenda, the sources said.

The eight-party Shi'ite Muslim rebels based in Iran had already refused to attend the meeting because of the dispute over their participation quota in the 526-member council.

The Peshawar alliance had allocated 60 seats to the Iran-based rebels on the basis of the fact that Shi'ite Muslims represent only 10 percent of the Afghan population.

Each of the seven Peshawar-based Sunni factions had been allocated 60 seats.

All 60 members of Mr. Mojaddedi's moderate Jabha-e Nejat-e Mile-e [National Front for the Liberation of Afghanistan] faction stayed away from Tuesday's meeting, the sources said.

"I consider the shura incomplete without the Shi'ite brothers' representation," he said in a press statement.

"The shura (in its present form) would be devoid of any legal authority to make decisions about the future of Afghanistan," he said.

Mr. Mojaddedi added: "I signed the agreement (with the Iran-based rebel leaders) as the alliance chief, and it must be ratified" by the Supreme Council of the alliance. Instead the majority fundamentalists rejected his decision, calling it unilateral.

He also conveyed his boycott decision at a separate meeting of his party with the other two moderate Peshawar-based parties, the Mahaz-e Eslami [National Islamic Front] of Pir Sayyed Ahmad Gaylani and the Harakat-e Enquelab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolutionary Movement] led by Nabi Muhammadi, a party source said who did not know how they responded.

"The boycott is indefinite until an agreement was reached with the Shi'ite leader," the party sources said, adding that the executive of Mr. Mojaddedi's faction had endorsed the decision.

Meanwhile, other resistance sources confirmed that Mr. Mojaddedi had pulled out of the shura and said speakers at the session Tuesday called for an amicable solution to the dispute.

Alliance leaders decided at an emergency meeting to set up a high-powered seven-member commission to take up the matter with the Iranian leaders who were still in town.

The commission, made up of respected religious scholars and party members, will try to resolve the dispute by giving the Iran-based groups fair representation in the shura and seek their participation, the sources said.

The shura will remain suspended until the commission reports, they said.

Interim Government Proposed

BK1502153389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The supreme leadership of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin has proposed a 26-member government. Engineer Ahmed Shah will be its head and it will replace the Soviet-installed puppet regime in Kabul.

This was stated by a consultative council of Afghan mujahidin spokesman at a news conference in Islamabad today after the council's session.

The interim government will make arrangements for electing a council which will prepare a draft of the future Islamic government's constitution in Afghanistan. After coming operational, the interim government will receive a vote of confidence from the consultative council within 6 months. The elected council will also appoint the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's head of state, and, until the appointment of the head of the state, the present seven-member supreme council of the Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin will continue to function jointly as the interim government's head of state.

The spokesman expressed thanks to all freedom-loving people, especially the members of the ICO, and said because of their overwhelming support the freedom-loving Afghan people were able to continue their holy war. He specially referred to the people and governments of Iran and Pakistan, who provided shelter and assistance to the millions of Afghan refugees in their homeland, with honor and dignity.

Answering a question, the spokesman said that Afghan mujahidin based in Iran will be included in the interim government even though their representatives have not yet participated in the consultative council.

Ahmad Shah Named as Head

LD1502141989 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 15, IRNA—The leadership council of the Afghan mujahidin alliance has proposed Ahmad Shah as head of the interim government of Afghanistan.

'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf told reporters at a news conference today that the proposal had been passed to the consultative council, or shura. He said members of the cabinet would be introduced after the proposed government received vote of confidence.

Sayyaf who is council spokesman, added that six months later a more extensive shura will appoint head of the Afghan government. The leadership council, he said, will continue to temporarily take care of the affairs.

Military Unity 'More Important' Than Politics

BK1502134589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1339 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 15 (AFP)—Military unity among mujahidin forces is more important than the political jockeying going on at a major assembly of rebel leaders in Rawalpindi near here, a top rebel commander said Wednesday [15 February].

"We have to urgently find a common command to reunify our military forces" following the Soviet withdrawal, Amin Wardak, commander of a mujahidin group around Afghanistan's capital Kabul, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The 526-member assembly, or shura, meeting in nearby Rawalpindi to set up an interim government in Afghanistan should take a back seat to military unity, Mr. Amin Wardak said.

"The Afghan resistance is not a political group it is an army group," he said.

"All the forces must strive for the same objective," said the young commander of the Hezb-e Eslami Khalis rebels in Wardak Province some 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of Kabul.

Mr. Amin Wardak, a member of the shura, decided not to attend the assembly as did most other rebel commanders who have been fighting in Afghanistan for more than nine years against Soviet and Afghan government troops.

He said the gap between rebel commanders and leaders of the political parties based in Pakistan's northwest city of Peshawar is getting worse.

"There is very little participation by mujahidin commanders in this shura... It's a Pakistani initiative and I don't expect anything from it because the delegates have been named by political parties," he said.

"The Soviets have succeeded in dividing us," he said, adding that there is a serious religious division between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims.

"We must all participate as Afghans," Mr. Amin Wardak said in reference to a boycott of the shura by the eight Iran-based Shi'ite parties after a dispute over their representation in the shura.

He also estimated that there are some 15,000-20,000 Afghan resistance fighters within a 50 kilometer (30 mile) range of Kabul.

"The mujahidin camp has about four different plans to take Kabul," and it will be hard because of the some 40,000 troops of the Najibullah regime in the capital, Mr. Amin Wardak said.

"It is necessary to undermine (the Kabul regime) from within," he said.

Yunis Khalis Seeks 'Punishment' for Najibullah
LD1502113389 London AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS in English 1515 GMT 14 fEB 89

[Text] Feb 14, AAP—Mawlawi Yunis Khalis told the Afghan news agency that it would be regarded as a flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of the Afghans if Moscow tried to snatch away Najibullah and his accomplices from Afghanistan.

Najibullah must be meted out severe punishment by the Afghans for his folly and it is none of Moscow's business to deal with Najibullah.

Spokesman Yurish Holds Kabul News Conference
LD1502063189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 14, BAKHTAR—Ghulam Sarwar Yurish, head of the press bureau and presidential spokesman, participated in a press conference held at Kabul Intercontinental Hotel on Feb. 13 in which local and foreign journalists had taken part.

The head of the presidential press bureau gave information to the journalists about the recent radio-televised speech of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]. Addressing the journalists, he added that in the next few days the return of Soviet soldiers will near completion. This means that the RA and the Soviet Union have honestly observed all their commitments in the Geneva agreements and have paved the grounds for the complete return of the Soviet contingents.

The full return of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan takes place at a time when the other side, Pakistan, not only has trampled underfoot its commitments openly and repeatedly but has intensified quantitatively and qualitatively its armed interferences and other forms of interventions into the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Sarwar Yurish added that reliable information indicates that of late the Armed Forces of Pakistan have been deployed in the eastern part of the border. The most recent information says that the concentration and deployment of the Armed Forces of Pakistan have taken place in the related areas of Quetta, Baluchestan bordering the southern part of Afghanistan.

The presidential spokesman said that the Pakistan's interventions went farther than this and in these days, in contradiction with the Geneva agreements and the resolution of the 43th UN General Assembly session, Pakistan is attempting to hold a so-called consultative council of opposition groups under the pressure and strict control of the Pakistani special services and military circles to create the so-called Afghan government in accordance with Pakistan's designs and wills.

The Pakistani president's recent assertions on the possibility of creating an Afghan-Pakistani confederation show that the aim of the Pakistani military circles in wanting to create the "council" and an Afghan interim government is in no way directed towards the political solution of the situation in Afghanistan. But they are attempting to form such a government for the Afghan organization based in Pakistan and Iran to serve for the implementation of the confederation design.

The spokesman recalled that President Najibullah's radio-television speech on 11 Feb was devoted to this matter. He also recalled that a statement was released by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan on 12 Feb, the main points of which are as follows:

—In the past several days a number of armed oppostion group commanders began talks with representatives of the authorities. They said that the absence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan made it possible for them to take part in the process of a peaceful settlement and the termination of fratricide as soon as possible. They believe that the continuation of bloodshed will no longer be a "jihad" (a sacred war), but the extermination of Muslims by Muslims.

—The state of the Republic of Afghanistan believes that all the problems connected with the destiny of the Afghan people must be resolved inside rather than outside Afghanistan. It urges all the commanders of armed opposition groups in the country to establish direct contacts with representatives of the authorities in order to find ways to terminate the bloodshed. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to consider all viewpoints, proposals, and demands and after holding talks with the opposition, to make joint decisions on them.

—The state of the Republic of Afghanistan declares that full safety and immunity will be guaranteed to all the commanders and members of the armed groups who contact the Afghan authorities. All the concerned departments of the Republic of Afghanistan have been ordered to take measures to initiate talks with the opposition in order to seek practical ways to enter into negotiations with the armed opposition groups.

—The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to purchase the heavy weapons and ammunition of the armed opposition groups in accordance with an earlier decree.

Later, Sarwar Yurish, head of the press bureau and presidential spokesman, responded to local and foreign journalists' questions. The spokesman gave detailed information to the journalists on various subjects, such as: the safety and immunity of all the commanders who contact the Afghan authorities to initiate dialogue; the purchase of heavy weapons from armed opposition groups; and the securing of employment for them in the fields of agriculture, trade, and transport.

Touching on the assistance to be rendered by the Republic of Afghanistan to the commanders who contact the authorities for talks and conciliation, Sarwar Yurish said that the government is ready to render material and financial assistance to all those who join the national reconciliation process. In addition, they will be guaranteed employment in any branch of the national economy.

Council of Ministers Denounces Pakistani Plans

LD1402195189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Afghan Council of Ministers today held its regular session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq.

The Council of Ministers first expressed full support for the statement by esteemed President Najibullah concerning Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's recent statement regarding the evil plan to merge Afghanistan with Pakistan, which was presented under the guise of creating a federation.

In regarding the Pakistani president's statement as a blatant example of this country's interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and an open violation of the Geneva accords, the Council of Ministers denounced with utter repulsion such expansionist intentions.

How can the Pakistani president, who is himself familiar with the history of the Afghan nation's courageous struggle for freedom, allow himself to demand the independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan as payment for this country's claimed humanitarian and Islamic assistance to their Afghan Muslim brethren? In expressing regret at the Pakistani president's irresponsible statement, the Afghan Council of Ministers pointed out that just as history's expansionists and colonialists failed to occupy Afghanistan, so too it would be better for Ishaq Khan to give up such vain fantasies.

The session approved draft Amendment 4 to the Law on Rights and Privileges of the Disabled, Maimed, and Families of the Martyrs of the April Revolution, concerning the payment of pensions to students and pupils at military institutions and [word indistinct] of officers courses of educational institutions and NCO courses of the Armed Forces. It was decided that this amendment will be sent to the Milli Shura for ratification in accordance with Article 81 of the Afghan Constitution.

Also approved was a draft amendment on prison sentences. It was decided that this amendment will be sent to the Milli Shura in accordance with Article 81 of the Afghan Constitution.

Memo 218 on Pakistani Violations Given to UN

LD1402232289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's 218th memorandum on the violations of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UN Good Offices Mission by the Foreign Ministry's liaison office in Kabul.

This memorandum gives detailed information of persistent and blatant violations by Pakistan which supplies the warmongering extremists with lethal arms which are used to destroy the cities and the residential areas.

The mission is requested to investigate the violations mentioned in the memorandum in accordance with paragraph 7, Document 4.

Mujahidin Military Strategy Options Described

BK1502132289 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Now that the Soviet troops have left Afghanistan, the next move is up to the mujahidin alliance. If, as predicted, they can bring down the Najibullah government will it be by a military onslaught or by a siege of the capital, Kabul? Our correspondent, Alex Brodie, sent this report from Peshawar, home of the Pakistan-based mujahidin parties.

[Begin Brodie recording] There is opposition to a full frontal attack on Kabul from many guerrilla commanders in the field. They tend to be local men with family and sympathizers inside. They want to encourage revolt from within to avoid a murderous takeover. But if the regime looks like surviving long enough to beat the food and fuel blockade, pressure to attack may increase.

And there are outside pressures on the Afghan guerrillas. With the Soviet Army out, attention is shifting to what the guerrillas' foreign backers will now do. The Pakistani Army has been deeply involved advising the guerrillas and distributing largely American arms to them, the purpose for which the seven Peshawar-based parties were created. It is not yet clear whether the Pakistanis still favor one particular fundamentalist group, as more moderate rivals allege, or to what extent they are still pursuing General Ziaul Haq's vision of an Islamic conquest.

Large amounts of Saudi Arabian money has been put behind another fundamentalist group closely associated with the Sunni Muslim Wahabi sect. As a weapon against such fundamentalist domination of the councils of the guerrillas, the moderates are now seeking greater say for the minority Shi'ite population. So is Iran, which will not want to accept the Saudi or Pakistani influence on its eastern border in a post-Soviet Afghanistan.

However, the biggest supplier of aid and weapons to the anti-communist cause—the United States—is now showing signs of stepping back, so as not to become too embroiled in the incomprehensible internecine politics of Afghanistan, where so many foreigners have come to grief. [end recording]

Hikmatyar on Partisan Stands, Military Strategy

PM1502103889 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 7 Feb 89 p 5

[Telephone interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, Islamic Party leader, by 'Umar Jastinyah in Peshawar—date not given]

[Text] [Jastinyah] What are the results of your visit to Iran?

[Hikmatyar] I went there with a delegation formed by the Afghan mujahidin leaders to discuss the participation of the Iran-based Afghan organizations and parties in the shura proceedings and the provisional government. We informed them of the decision concerning the "proportions" allocated by the mujahidin leaders. They told me they would discuss the matter and inform us of their position.

[Jastinyah] Does this mean that you did not agree on anything specific?

[Hikmatyar] No. We did not agree on anything specific. We agreed, however, to continue consultations. They demanded more seats than those allotted for them.

[Jastinyah] More than 60 seats?

[Hikmatyar] Yes. Their request was impractical because we gave them exactly what they are entitled to. As you know, here in Peshawar we accepted small organizations and we gave them the same treatment as the big organizations without the slightest difference. We told them that elections will be held in a matter of days and that there will be an elected council in addition to the provisional government. We have to postpone resolving the issue of what each side's rights are until after the election. At this point, we should not accept hardline positions on ratios decided by the leaders of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin. We are now awaiting their reply.

[Jastinyah] What if the eight parties do not accept the decided ratios?

[Hikmatyar] Whatever happens, the shura will meet, even if the eight parties in Iran do not participate.

[Jastinyah] Why did Mojaddedi go to Tehran then?

[Hikmatyar] Mojaddedi went to Tehran on his own initiative and in his personal capacity and not as head of the alliance. When he comes back we will see what he brings and we will know from him what happened. Then we will talk.

[Jastinyah] But Mojaddedi said in one of his interviews that he would try to bring with him representatives of the eight parties in Tehran.

[Hikmatyar] It was not our decision to send him for that purpose.

[Jastinyah] Do you have any hope of persuading the eight small parties to participate in the shura despite all that?

[Hikmatyar] We hope these brothers will join the council in the interest of the struggle and our country's future. I cannot imagine partisan stands harming the struggle.

[Jastinyah] On what basis have they been assigned 60 seats?

[Hikmatyar] They do not receive 60 seats but rather 80 seats for all the organizations that are not part of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin.

[Jastinyah] So, 80 seats have been allotted for all the organizations outside the alliance, regardless of sect affiliations?

[Hikmatyar] Yes, including those in Iran and those here in Pakistan regardless of whether they are big or small. We have even taken into the council some neutrals who have no party affiliations.

[Jastinyah] Does that mean that the number of seats will not exceed 519?

[Hikmatyar] We allocate seats on the basis of individual affiliation not sectarian affiliation.

[Jastinyah] Why are they requesting more than the seats allocated to them?

[Hikmatyar] I still do not know why they are requesting a higher proportion and a greater number of seats, but they say that we have accepted smaller organizations and given them 60 seats. They want to be considered as more than one organization but we tell them that this is only a temporary measure for a transitional period and that once the elections have been held and the elected council formed each side will be represented according to its strength and weight. They must accept this in the interests of solidarity and in unifying the people of Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] Do these parties represent non-Sunnis?

[Hikmatyar] These organizations cannot claim to represent non-Sunnis because there are non-Sunnis in all organizations forming a part of the whole. As I said, the council is not formed on a sectarian basis.

[Jastinyah] How do you visualize the next government?

[Hikmatyar] It will be a provisional government deriving its legitimacy from the shura. It will replace the Najibullah government after its fall. An elected council then will be formed alongside that government.

[Jastinyah] And what powers will the elected council have?

[Hikmatyar] It will supervise the government as well as its work, plans, and their implementation. It will also prepare the country's constitution and supervise the election process under the constitution. Under the supervision of that council, an elected government will be formed. Power then will be transferred from the provisional government to the elected government.

[Jastinyah] Do you back and support Ahmad Shah?

[Hikmatyar] As I said, the government will derive its legitimacy from the shura. The question of support and backing will be decided there.

[Jastinyah] When will the government submit itself to the shura for a seal of legitimacy?

[Hikmatyar] Perhaps on 10 February.

[Jastinyah] Ahmad Shah has managed to nominate 12 ministers and deputies. When will the formation of the cabinet be completed?

[Hikmatyar] The remaining ministers will be chosen by the council provided they are nominated by the parties.

[Jastinyah] What parties?

[Hikmatyar] All of them.

[Jastinyah] Why has Rawalpindi been chosen instead of Peshawar as the venue for the shura?

[Hikmatyar] We still have not made a final decision as to the venue. It may be Peshawar. We have agreed on the date but we are still discussing the venue. The venue can be changed at any moment for security and political considerations but the date cannot be postponed.

[Jastinyah] Have you received an invitation from the Pakistani Government to hold your council in Rawalpindi?

[Hikmatyar] The Pakistani Government supports the position of the leaders of the Islamic alliance of Afghan mujahidin. It did not ask us to hold our meeting in any particular place.

[Jastinyah] What are your ideas about projects for the reconstruction of Afghanistan?

[Hikmatyar] The states and organizations which have expressed willingness to participate in the reconstruction should coordinate with the provisional government in order to enter Afghanistan. We will not allow anybody to operate directly, only through the government. Whoever accepts this condition can help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan but we will not allow any side to do just anything under the pretext reconstructing Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] So the "crusader" organizations will not find their way to Islamic Afghanistan.

[Hikmatyar] We will not allow them.

[Jastinyah] From whom do you expect aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan?

[Hikmatyar] From the Islamic and peace-loving states which helped us in our war against the invaders.

[Jastinyah] How do view the future form of government in Afghanistan? Will there be a multiparty system in a parliamentary regime?

[Hikmatyar] Speaking for myself, I say that it will be an elected government with only a head of state. In other words, there will not be a prime minister and a head of state. Executive powers will go to the head of state who will combine the two positions, and there will be an elected council. I believe that the ranks should be united without a multiparty situation but we will not force the parties to disband.

[Jastinyah] So there is still no constitution to organize the process.

[Hikmatyar] There is a constitution regarding the provisional government and there is almost unanimous agreement on it. We will consider a permanent constitution after the shura is elected or formed.

[Jastinyah] Do you expect the Soviet withdrawal to be completed?

[Hikmatyar] Yes, I expect that to happen ahead of schedule, before 15 February.

[Jastinyah] What about the Kabul regime?

[Hikmatyar] It can not and it will not be able to resist the mujahidin. I expect Kabul to fall immediately after the Soviet withdrawal.

[Jastinyah] If the Soviets were to seek relations with the new Afghan state, what would your answer be?

[Hikmatyar] We seek good relations with all states, particularly Islamic states, provided they do not interfere in our internal affairs. We will accept nobody's trusteeship. As for the Soviets, there is an additional condition which is that the Soviets should pay compensation to Afghanistan for the destruction caused as a result of the invasion and should promise not to try to repeat that crime. Anyway, I imagine it will be years before our people forget what the Soviets have done to them.

[Jastinyah] Some observers expect the seizure of Kabul to be a long process.

[Hikmatyar] More than 95 percent of Afghan territory is liberated and under our control. Some cities are under our siege. I can assure you that we do not need to launch a major offensive to liberate these cities. We have other plans. We will enter these cities without a major offensive.

[Jastinyah] What about the problem concerning the millions of mines planted by the Soviets?

[Hikmatyar] Indeed, this is a difficult problem, but God willing, we will solve it. There is a UN program in this regard. We will also exert pressure on the Soviets to obtain charts of the minefields. We have our own ways of pressuring the Russians and we will take the charts from them. Then our task will be easy.

Rabbani Views Future Government, Foreign Ties

PM1502102089 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 5 Feb 89 p 5

[Telephone interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, Islamic Society leader, by 'Umar Jastinyah in Peshawar—date not given]

[Text] [Jastinyah] Hikmatyar went to Tehran for negotiations with the eight parties and returned. Then Sibghatullah Mojaddedi went there. What did Hikmatyar come back with and why has Mojaddedi gone there?

[Rabbani] Hikmatyar came back from Tehran without anything specific. He voiced optimism about the possibility of an agreement with the Iran-based eight parties, but added nothing else. This is why we have sent Brother Sibghatullah Mojaddedi to Iran. We hope he will bring with him the representatives of these parties so that there will be no opposition, especially at this stage. The [shura representation] proportion allocated for them will not be changed. These matters have been agreed on and that is final. We urge all the parties to unite. We urge our brothers in the Islamic states to help us unify our ranks.

[Jastinyah] There are reports about differences between the Peshawar-based seven parties and the [Iran-based] eight parties over shura representation levels. How true is this and what are the dimensions of these differences?

[Rabbani] We in the Islamic alliance of the Afghan mujahidin are anxious to unite the ranks of all the jihad factions, regardless of their locations. We have been doubly anxious to do that since our talks with the deputy foreign minister, as he tried to make contacts with the other mujahidin groups in order to split the Afghan ranks. This is why we contacted our brothers in the other eight parties and advised them not to enter into talks with the Soviets. We also told them: If you decide to enter into talks with them, do that via one party so that the Soviets will not deal with the parties individually.

They sent a delegation here, to Peshawar, and requested shura representation levels different from those allocated to them by the mujahidin. We told them that that was not possible and it was improper to differ over [representation] levels. Instead, we should unify positions. Then Hikmatyar was delegated by the Afghan mujahidin to go see them. And now Sibghatullah Mojaddedi has gone to see them, as the shura will convene shortly and we want them to be with us at those meetings or send their representatives to join us. And if they do not participate, we hope they will not adopt a hostile position toward us.

[Jastinyah] What about your overview of the next government, and what is the possibility of establishing a broad-based government?

[Rabbani] We are convinced of the need for a broad-based government at this particular stage. The formation of a government is now an essential and pressing matter in order to deny our enemies the opportunity to sow the seeds of division and fragmentation. This is why we are seeking to form a government comprising the largest possible number of parties.

[Jastinyah] Do you expect such a government to receive full support from the Afghan leaders and the shura?

[Rabbani] We are seeking that. At any rate, a formula guaranteeing the achievement of a major agreement must be found.

[Jastinyah] How do you see Afghanistan's future international relations?

[Rabbani] We want Afghanistan to be a neutral Islamic state bound to the Islamic states by brotherly ties. We want it to maintain cordial relations with all states that wish to establish relations with Muslim Afghanistan, provided they do not interfere in our internal affairs, maintain mutual respect, and help the Muslim Afghan people. We support the establishment of cordial relations with everyone. I would like to say that Afghanistan will not be a hostile base for one state against another. We will not allow it to become a military base for any other state.

[Jastinyah] The Soviet defense minister said in a recent statement that the Soviet withdrawal will be completed very shortly even before the date set. Reports indicate that the withdrawal is likely to be completed on 5 February, after which the mujahidin would be in direct confrontation with the Kabul regime. What do you expect that confrontation to result in, that is, in view of changing international positions?

[Rabbani] We hope that the Soviets will fulfill their promise, but who can guarantee that? We heard recently that they want to keep part of their army in Afghanistan under the pretext of keeping a number of advisers. We know the confrontation with the agent government in Kabul is not difficult. We know our abilities and capabilities well, and believe that they will fall and fall one after another when the confrontation takes place.

[Jastinyah] Moscow wants Kabul to be neutral in the Finnish way and Washington wants the Austrian way, whereas the Islamic world looks forward to a nonaligned, Muslim Afghanistan. Where do these ideas fit in the present reality?

[Rabbani] We certainly reject both the Finnish and Austrian approaches. We want Afghanistan to be a nonaligned Muslim country. We will not agree to anyone imposing a particular option on us. We decide what we want for Muslim Afghanistan and its territory and people. We consider these ideas interference in our internal affairs. We have rejected and still reject that. Our decision, God willing, will be nothing but Islamic inside Afghanistan.

[Jastinyah] There have been reports recently about the readiness of some international organizations and some states to provide aid to rebuild Afghanistan after the war ends. What is your overview of the rebuilding plans?

[Rabbani] This is true. I hope that the friendly Islamic states will roll up their sleeves and contribute to rebuilding Afghanistan, instead of the international organizations, some of which offer help for purposes of which both we and the Islamic states are aware.

[Jastinyah] Some observers expect the transitional period to face obstacles after the mujahidin's victory. They attribute that to the difference between armed struggle experience and stable rule experience. How do you view this?

[Rabbani] We did not have any experience in armed struggle against one of the most powerful armies in the world, one possessing the latest weapons and equipment. But we, with God's help, have been able to confront that army, repulse its aggression, and achieve victory over it in more than one battle. We have great hope that God will enable us during the stage of stable power and administration to perform our duty toward our people and land in order to guarantee security and stability. We will do our best to learn from the Islamic states' experiences and those of present regimes which do not seek to interfere in our internal affairs. As for potential obstacles and troubles during the transitional period, if something like that occurs, it will occur during the transitional period alone. We believe that the Afghan people will overcome any potential obstacles or problems.

[Jastinyah] Is there unanimous agreement among the mujahidin to choose the government of Engineer Ahmad Shah?

[Rabbani] There are some interpretations. There is no complete agreement. We are searching, however, for a unanimous agreement formula. So far, most of the mujahidin brothers have agreed on that government for a short, temporary period, but some still do not agree. The majority agrees because the transitional period will not be long. It will be short.

[Jastinyah] The Soviets claim that a civil war will erupt in Afghanistan after their withdrawal. Some states are closing their embassies in Kabul in fear of that. What is the truth? Can the war they talk about possibly break out?

[Rabbani] It is now a known fact. The embassies that have been closed did not fear mujahidin attacks. The agent Kabul government will, on Russian instruction, try to create clashes. Despite this, the agent government

will not be able to continue to resist for long. For our part, we do not want violent confrontation in Kabul. We want the agent government to surrender quickly. This way there would be no possibility of the civil war they are talking about breaking out. Our war against the agent regime is not a civil war at all. The Kabul government is an extension of the foreign presence on Afghan territory.

[Jastinyah] How would you describe the present situation in Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] Actually, we are facing a very difficult situation. We are exposed to ferocious aerial shelling, as the Soviets are trying to destroy everything. Our capabilities are weak in relation to theirs. We have sent quantities of wheat to the nearby governorates. Remote governorates are facing a critical situation as a result of the severe winter and haphazard Soviet shelling.

[Jastinyah] What if the Soviets asked to establish relations with the new regime in Afghanistan after their withdrawal?

[Rabbani] The mujahidin have announced their willingness to open a new page in relations with the Soviets, providing they do not interfere in our internal affairs and respect the rules observed in international relations.

[Jastinyah] Some reports claim that Mr Rabbani, Muhammad Nabi, and Mir Ahmad Gaylani did not agree on the government of Engineer Ahmad Shah. How true is this?

[Rabbani] We agreed on it, but at the beginning some brothers made some proposals regarding the need to seek the approval of all the parties and include all these brother leaders in accepting responsibility at this stage so that the situation in Afghanistan would not be shaken in the future. I myself am one of those who support the government and I made some proposals in the past. We now seek to include all the parties in the government, as the stage ahead is very crucial and sensitive.

[Jastinyah] When do you expect the shura to convene in full (519 members)?

[Rabbani] Possibly on 10 or 11 February, but the number is likely to be increased. The leaders will decide, including some figures in the council. The situation will be clear in a week's time.

[Jastinyah] What about your ideas regarding the future regime in Afghanistan? Do you intend to allow party pluralism under a parliamentary system?

[Rabbani] Of course, under Islamic rule we should be united in terms of the objective, religion, and central power. We should not allow any troubles, obstacles, trends, or opposition, even if this opposition is only in the name of opposition! The constitution will determine the regime. As for me personally, I have no objection to the presence of united parties, not opposition parties—parties that compete for the good, provided that they do not exceed two or three in number. That is possible in the future.

[Jastinyah] Are there specific ideas regarding the state's constitution in Afghansitan?

[Rabbani] There are various ideas and interpretations which we want to unify. I recommend that at the first stage there should be united parties, because that would be in the state's interests. The reason is to avoid provocation or monopoly. But when, God willing, all the country's affairs are dealt with, there will be one party. There will be no other parties. The question of drafting the constitution requires study, follow-up, discussion, and time as well. We are serious about drawing up a constitution that will protect the country and people of Afghanistan.

Discusses Military Policy, Aid

PM1402150489 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Feb 89 pp 27-28

[Unattributed interview with Burhanuddin Rabbani, Islamic Society leader—place, date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Do you expect Kabul to fall without resistance?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: Yes. The signs are clear with the complete collapse of security in the capital despite the Soviet forces' presence. So what will happen when they withdraw, leaving the communist regime completely exposed? This is in addition to the people's increasing pressure as a result of the mujahidin's intensive siege on Kabul, Qandahar, and Jalalabad. These cities are densely populated and we do not want them to suffer any more human or economic losses. They have suffered enough during the communists' rule in terms of moral and material losses inflicted on the Afghan people, who have suffered humiliation due to the presence of a foreign occupier injuring their national pride. What makes them even more bitter is the presence of the occupation alongside an agent, puppet government that mistreats nationalists, in terms of their freedom, livelihood, and security.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Soviets will complete their withdrawal by the middle of this month as they promised in the Geneva accords?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: It is true that over the past 2 weeks the Soviets have launched intensive air raids and a sweeping land offensive, using tanks and heavy artillery, in a frustrated and desperate attempt to terrorize Afghan civilians in Kabul and northern Afghanistan. And it is true that they have heavily bombarded and

shelled small towns and villages. But the mujahidin repulsed and inflicted heavy losses on them when they tried to recapture the main Salang highway, which links Kabul to Soviet territory.

The regrettable aggressive acts carried out by the Soviets and the agent government have resulted in chaos in the capital. The people are now worried about their lives, families, and property under a formal, weak, submissive government comprised of a group of people who are now panicking because of their masters' withdrawal and whose dreams and ambitions of exploiting and slaughtering the Afghan people have evaporated. We greatly regret the states' withdrawal of their diplomats from Kabul, but we promise that we will, God willing, restore security to the capital and Afghan territory as a whole when the mujahidin government assumes power in the next few weeks.

AL-HAWADITH: When will the shura convene and what task will be assigned to it at that meeting? And is it true that the number of its members has been increased in response to a request from the brother mujahidin in the eight Iran-based parties?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: The shura will convene February 10 in Islamabad to endorse the transitional government and its transfer to the capital to assume power and destroy the agent communist regime. It was deemed proper to expand the shura to comprise 519 members, half of them party leaders and cadres and the other half ulema, tribe leaders, and influential people in Kabul.

AL-HAWADITH: Will the mujahidin leaders meet with the Soviet foreign minister or any other envoy in the coming days?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: The dialogue with the Soviets has not stopped and we are ready to hold a dialogue with them at any time or at whatever level they want. But what is important is that they should have a genuine desire to end the unresolved problems between us by completing their military withdrawal as originally scheduled, that is, in line with the Geneva accords and their international obligations. This, in addition to the outstanding issues discussed in previous talks, whether in Al-Ta'if or Islamabad, including war compensation, POW's, minefield charts, noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, and the repatriation of the children and individuals detained in the Soviet Union, who are the elite of our people.

But if their objective is more propaganda, maneuvering, the status quo, or a truce—call it what you will—this is unacceptable and cannot be allowed by our people's struggling masses. Our forces, however, still have their finger on the trigger and are alert in all combat positions with a view to regaining all the Afghan homeland's territory, whatever the sacrifices. We want peace. We want to free ourselves to rebuild the homeland.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Kabul now under siege by the mujahidin?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: Yes. It has been under siege for a long time. The siege will continue until the agent government members depart. They now have a golden opportunity to escape and save their lives by secretly joining the withdrawing Soviet forces. This is because we cannot guarantee that the people will not take revenge against them for their brutality and the crimes they have committed over the last decade during the introduction of an ugly colonialism that has weighed heavily on our hearts, souls, and national soil for more than 10 years—a humiliation to our cultural heritage and Islamic identity. The mujahidin will, God willing, enter Kabul victorious in order to begin a new history of civilization eradicating the rule of the hypocrites and unbelievers.

AL-HAWADITH: What have you done regarding the trenches surrounding the capital, which the Najibullah regime has dug in an attempt to gain time and protect its followers and their families, who sneak out of the country from time to time?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: The trenches surrounding Kabul will not help the collapsing regime, which cannot protect itself. Kabul will, God willing, fall as a result of the people's powerful blows from within, with the mujahidin's support and backing.

Fortifications will pose no difficulty to the mujahidin, who have struggled for more than 10 years. We do not want to enter Kabul, Qandahar, and Jalalabad by force of arms, out of concern for civilian lives. This is because, as you now, they are densely populated. This is why our siege on the capital, Qandahar, Jalalabad, and the other major cities will speed up the attainment of victory and the mujahidin's assumption of power in Afghanistan. The people will give them [the regime] a fair and immediate trial for all the brutal crimes and massacres they have committed against peaceful people, especially children, women, and the elderly. They must pay the price of their crimes before a just judiciary that will punish them according to the shari'a rules.

AL-HAWADITH: Some observers expect a civil war to break out after the Russians withdraw. Do you expect that?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: The mujahidin of all parties and factions in Pakistan and Iran are determined to coordinate their position and unite their ranks under a legitimate, constitutional regime based on the Islamic shari'a and emanating from the shura in order to define the government's powers and draw up a political program for it. After we return to the homeland the shura will work to elect a permanent government and draw up a permanent constitution for the country, which will be put to a referendum so that Afghanistan will begin a new phase of stability, security, and peace.

AL-HAWADITH: Will Zahir Shah (the toppled king) return to power?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: I told AL-HAWADITH in a previous interview that he now belongs to the past, and we cannot move backward. As you can see, the situation and conditions have changed. It would be unreasonable to accept him now. Despite this, we believe in the people's will, since it is they who have the right to decide on the Zahir Shah issue. As for his return to Afghanistan as a citizen, I believe there would be no objection to his returning to play his part as an honorable citizen.

AL-HAWADITH: Have the mujahidin and the Soviets exchanged POW's?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: Yes. One group of POW's was exchanged and then the talks stopped.

AL-HAWADITH: What will your solution be if the Soviets refuse to give you the minefield maps?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: I told AL-HAWADITH previously that the Soviets have planted more than 20 million mines in our country. These mines cause heavy civilian losses. International human rights organizations must take action and pressure the Soviets to remove them or hand over the maps. Irrespective of negotiations over these mines, we will remove them, using our vast experience together with help from some Arab and Muslim brothers.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Islamic states' position? Do they still back and support you under the present atmosphere of international detente and the Soviet Union's partial military withdrawal?

Burhanuddin Rabbani: This is an important question. Its importance stems from the fact that Islamic solidarity is capable of resolving any problems between brothers, regardless of any estrangement. We have struggled for the sake of both God and the homeland to establish Islamic, legitimate rule and to restore to Afghanistan its true Islamic face. This is why the Islamic states must continue their aid, as the mujahidin still have many issues and problems which require a rapid solution, namely, the restoration of civil life in the homeland's capital and major cities, which can be achieved by repairing the amenities and facilities which the war has destroyed.

This, in addition to supplying the people, who have suffered for a long time, with the necessary food and medicine. We also have an ambitious program for the early repatriation of 5 million refugees to their homeland, as Afghanistan needs every Afghan hand to participate in the rebuilding process. We also have numerous programs aimed at strengthening economic and trade relations with the Islamic states, which have been severed for a decade. We must also revive our role within the ICO.

These programs require both support and financing. That support is being provided by the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques [King Fahd of Saudi Arabia] with the aim of restoring Afghanistan's civilization and Islamic face, as well as supporting, backing, and settling the Afghan refugees in their towns and villages. As you know, the Afghan people have presented the jihad a precious gift, namely, 1.5 million martyrs. The world must extend its hand to us to support orphans, widows, and the elderly. We hope that Almighty God will help our Muslim brother leaders support and back us. On behalf of all the mujahidin, I send my thanks, greetings, and appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for his constant care for the Afghan people both in exile and in the liberated territories and for the establishment of several Saudi hospitals, medical centers, and shelters in our camps.

This, in addition to continuous airlifted medical and food supplies and the position of the Kingdom and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, is unreservedly supportive of the Afghan cause. I will never forget what King Fahd told me during his meetings with us in Al-Madinah and Riyadh: The Saudi people and their government will support the Afghan people right to the end. He promised to help his brothers, the Afghan people, repair and rebuild what the war has destroyed, especially since 90 percent of Afghan villages have been destroyed, 5 million Afghans have been made homeless, and internal security in Afghanistan must be restored.

Bangladesh

Ershad Leaves on Official Visit to Britain

BK1402014489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka for London last night on a 5-day official visit to the United Kingdom at the invitation of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Besides Begum Raushan Ershad, the other members of the presidential entourage include Deputy Prime Minister M.A. Matin and Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

The president was seen off at the airport by Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed and cabinet ministers. The three services chiefs and members of the diplomatic corps were also present.

President Ershad will have wide-ranging talks with Margaret Thatcher on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

His visit to Britain not only symbolizes the existing close ties between the two nations but will also go a long way toward further strengthening bilateral economic cooperation.

India

Spokesman Criticizes LTTE Role in Sri Lanka

BK1402162489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that India has been trying its best to settle differences in Sri Lanka through the democratic process. Several rounds of talks were held with the LTTE since the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement in addition to the discussions with other Tamil groups. The LTTE regrettably backed out on its word every time.

The spokesman made these observations to a query from newsmen about the reported statement of the LTTE threatening to eliminate the candidates contesting parliamentary polls in the Tamil region. He said this shows the commitment of the LTTE to violence. It appears that the LTTE wants nothing short of a monopoly power in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, the spokesman remarked.

USSR's Biryukova Calls on Commerce Minister

BK1402044889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Indo-Soviet trade turnover for the current year is estimated at 7,000 crore rupees. According to an official release, it is estimated to reach 5,200 crore rupees during 1988, marking an increase of 24 percent over the previous year.

This was indicated by the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh, when the Soviet deputy prime minister and alternate member of the Central Committee of CPSU Politburo, Mrs Aleksandra Biryukova, met him in New Delhi yesterday.

While Mrs Biryukova evinced interest in further collaboration in leather and consumer goods, Mr Dinesh Singh said India can help in modernizing textile mills in the Soviet Union.

Trade Protocol Signed With Egypt, SFRY

BK1302151889 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1445 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] India, Egypt, and Yugoslavia have signed a tripartite protocol to boost their trade. Indian Ambassador to Egypt S.K. Bhutani, who signed agreement in Cairo on 12 February, said it will further strengthen existing economic ties among three countries. Egyptian International Cooperation Minister Dr Maurice Makramallah and Yugoslavian Ambassador Milan Zupan signed documents for their countries.

The protocol envisages exploration and utilization of all possibilities for economic cooperation in science and technology, industry, tourism, and transport.

Janata Chief on Conflicts in Fairfax Probe

BK1402133789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The Janata Party leader, Dr Subramaniam Swamy, has said it is a matter of deep concern that an agency like Fairfax can be hired with the concurrence of Mr V.P. Singh as finance minister and that the same agency can then be hired by someone else to investigate Mr V.P. Singh himself.

Dr Swamy was addressing a news conference in New Delhi today on his return from the United States, where he met the Fairfax chief, Mr Hershman. He maintained that the letter of Mr Hershman released by him earlier was genuine.

Dr Swamy said according to Mr V.P. Singh's own admission as per Thakkar-Natarajan commission report and Mr Hershman's confirmation to him, the letter of authority given to Fairfax was a general one and while probing FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act] violations it gave important access to the agency to otherwise inaccessible sources. He said by this and by the established behavior of Mr Hershman our national security has been compromised.

Paper Views Relations With Bush Administration

BK1202095589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 7 Feb 89 p 13

[S. Nihal Singh's article: "Indo-U.S. Ties—Test of Bush Presidency"]

[Text] It is a measure of the distance India and the United States have travelled in recent years and the new fluidity in the world that relations between the two countries no longer excite the kind of passions they did a short while ago. Barring the communists and a section of the left, the political mythology of the United States being the demon is on the way to being demolished in India.

This is all to the good, and the accession to office of a new administration in Washington is an appropriate time for assessing where the relations are headed in the future. We can expect no spectacular changes nor are they necessarily desirable. But the accession to office of President George Bush and the essentially pragmatic, if traditional, team he has put together do imply a change in nuances after the reign of the charismatic and ideological Ronald Reagan.

George Bush has assumed the presidency at an interesting and momentous time in the world's affairs. Whatever the role played by the United States' arms build-up, Mikhail Gorbachev has set in train an extraordinary chain of events around the world. There is first the new, more cooperative phase in superpower relations symbolised by the treaty on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) and the ability of the Big Two to tackle regional conflicts in concert, rather than in opposition.

The Soviet military intervention phase in Afghanistan is all but over, thanks partly to the American support to the mujahidin. The Iran-Iraq war has ended in a stalemated truce, again partly because of the successful American show of strenth. But the Soviets recognised the futility, and worse, of lingering in Afghanistan and were all for an end to the long war in the Gulf.

Nearer home, the unexpected departure of General Ziaul Haq and the remarkable rise to power of Benazir Bhutto transformed the scene in Pakistan. Building on the gathering pace of the Sino-Soviet rapprochement, Rajiv Gandhi made his path-breaking trip to China and underlined India's support for a democratic dispensation in Pakistan by his presence at the summit of the SAARC nations and through a number of bilateral meetings with the new Prime Minister.

The aims of the superpowers remain competitive, but the relaxed international climate and the Soviet Union's new openness and decision to retrench some of its worldwide commitments imply a range of areas in which the Big Two have cooperated and will do so in the future. If domestic compulsions and the needs of the technological era have induced the Soviet changes, there is a leader of the calibre of Gorbachev who is trying to implement them.

Traditionally, Indo-US relations have been governed by the state of Pakistan-US relations, the Indo-Soviet equation and the asymmetry involved in a developing regional power dealing with a superpower. This asymmetry looms large in the nuclear issue and in India's role in the non-aligned movement.

Thanks to the turmoil in Iran and the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the United States entered into a new security relationship with Pakistan with its attendant fall-out on Indo-US relations. On the other side, India's failure to influence Soviet actions in Afghanistan led to Indira Gandhi insulating the question from the broader Indo-Soviet relationship while declining publicly to criticise Moscow.

At the United Nations, Washington totted up the score-card of Indian, and other countries', voting record to point out how it was loaded against the United States. And the nuclear issue, always a bone of contention, got enmeshed in the American decision to turn a blind eye to Pakistan's avid efforts to acquire a nuclear weapon capability in order to promote its cause against the Soviets in Afghanistan.

Mrs Indira Gandhi took an important decision, symbolised by her meeting with President Reagan in Mexico. It was to inaugurate a new phase in relations by setting aside the irritants. This initiative was consolidated by Rajiv Gandhi in his meetings with the US President. There followed a perceptible increase in technology transfers, including in the field of defence, and greater American private investment in the country following liberalisation measures.

Political rhetoric has continued to punctuate Indo-US relations, specifically on the evocative question of modern arms for Pakistan, in particular F-16 aircraft. And there have been continuing public protests over Washington's unwillingness or inability, or both, to help stop Pakistan's nuclear weapon development programme.

But in addition to the new, controlled access to technology and higher trade, the contours of the Indo-US relationship were changing. On the American side, there was growing recognition of the Indian potential, impressive in regional terms. And signals were being sent out that, in the longer term, Indo-American strategic interests need not necessarily be divergent. This was apparent in the public support for the Indo-Sri Lankan accord and the Indian military intervention in the Maldives. It was also implicit in the limited access to defence and dual-use technology. India reacted with accepting US naval ships' visits, a greater interchange at the military level and by toning down criticism of the US-Gulf role or its anti-Libyan obsession.

Against this backdrop, what does the conjunction of the fluidity in the world and President Bush's presidency imply? The two contentious issues—Pakistani-US relations and the nuclear question—will remain with us. To an extent, the return of democracy to Pakistan, in however tentative a fashion, and the more relaxed phase of Indo-Pakistani relations it has inaugurated lightens Washington's Pakistan burden. Second, the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan would imply a less obsessive concern with Pakistan in Washington.

President Bush, however, can be expected to continue the security relationship with Pakistan although the proposition of economic assistance to arms supplies will probably increase. The Pakistani pipeline was essential for the supply of arms to the mujahidin as it was as a staging post for attacks inside Afghanistan, but Washington strategists continue to view Islamabad in the context of West Asia. And here they find Pakistan useful in relation to the Gulf and future moves in Iran.

Since any real improvement in Indo-Pakistani relations is for the long haul, Pakistan will continue to influence, in a measure, the state of Indo-US relations. It is the Indian hope that, given Bush's pragmatism and his knowledge of the area, Washington will show greater sensitivity to Indian objections to the quality and number of arms supplied to Pakistan.

The nuclear question will remain an equally explosive issue, if not more so. With Afghanistan more or less out of the way, there will be greater American efforts to put pressure on Pakistan to abandon its military nuclear option. Pakistan will, equally predictably, resist such pressures while officially denying nuclear ambitions in the military field.

As so often in the past, this question will bring India into the picture, in view of Islamabad's policy of seeking a reciprocal Indian restraint. The Benazir government will be unwilling, or unable, to change this policy. The call will then be made by Washington to both India and Pakistan to show equal restraint—in effect, to cap the efforts at their present stage, however many screwdrives away from the bomb they might be.

Apart from its deeply-held philosophical opposition to the concept of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NTP), India has to take into account the Chinese nuclear capability. This is recognised by some in the US—Congressman Stephen Solarz, for one—but has traditionally been given little weight in the administration. It is all very well to ask India and Pakistan not to indulge in a nuclear arms race, but such issues cannot be resolved in a sub-regional context.

Disagreements between India and the United States will continue to exist in other areas, such as the voting record in the United Nations, the rhetoric of the non-aligned movement and over specific US policies around the world. To an extent, both sides have learnt to live with their differences while carrying on business in agreed fields.

The irritations caused in Washington by the Indo-Soviet equation will tend to diminish because of the spirit of detente in superpower relations and the fact that India's relations with Moscow are evolving. While New Delhi and Moscow will continue to maintain close links, the developing cordiality between Moscow and Beijing and Moscow's likely improvement of relations with Islamabad cannot but have an impact.

The test of President Bush's presidency for India will be in how he chooses to tackle the nuclear question in the region. It has still to be determined how high this question will be on his agenda. Republicans tend to be less emotional about the issue than Democrats and Bush's reputation for pragmatism should help although he faces a Democrat-controlled Congress.

Outside the nuclear and Pakistan issues, prospects of better Indo-US relations look good. We must, of course, bear in mind that the subcontinent as such has a low rating in the set of worldwide American priorities.

Iran

Further Reportage on Reaction to Rushdie Book

$1 Million for Rushdie's Death

LD1502164189 Tehran IRNA in English 1627 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—A million dollars has been set aside for anyone who carries out Imam Khomeyni's death sentence against Salman Rashdie for his blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses".

"If the executioner is a foreigner he will receive a million dollars," said Hojatt ol-Eslam Hassan Sane'i, head of the 15th of Khordad Relief Agency.

Any Iranian who carries out the order would be awarded ria's 200 million (nearly dlrs 3 mn), he said.

In a report read on Iranian television, Sane'i also said if the executioner dies in his attempt he would be a martyr and his family would be supported by the relief agency.

Families of those martyred in Sunday's demonstrations against the book in Pakistan's capital Islamabad and in India would also receive funds.

The agency was set up after the revolution to support the poor.

Its name, 15th of Khordad, corresponds with June 5th 1963 when thousands were killed in various parts of the country in demonstrations led by Imam Khomeyni against the monarchy.

Khamene'i Backs Khomeyni Decree

LD1502121289 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today called for "revolutionary execution" of the author of a blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses."

Khamene'i said that after Imam Khomeyni's decree, "the brave and pious youth across the Muslim world would not need any other message."

In a message on Tuesday Imam Khomeyni sanctioned the killing of Salman Rushdie, the Muslim born Indian author for insulting the sanctities of Muslims.

Imam Khomeyni said in his message that "Salman Rushdie who had written against Islam, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the Koran, as well as all those involved in the publication of the book who were aware of its content are sanctioned to death."

"The sanction handed down by Imam Khomeyni is a ruling which other Muslim jurisprudents should issue if they wanted to act upon Islamic laws," Khamene'i said.

The president, quoting the imam, said any body killed while trying to execute the author would be a martyr. He hoped "God willing this will teach global arrogance a good lesson that they cannot play with the sentiments of Muslims."

Lauding Pakistani Muslims for their reaction against plots of the U.S. and other arrogant powers, Khamene'i said "it is incumbent upon all Muslims to punish this wicked mercenary (Rushdie)."

At least six people were killed in police shoot-out in Islamabad when angry Muslims held an anti-Rushdie demonstration Sunday.

Khamene'i saying criticising a religion was different from insulting it, noted "We ourselves are fond of debates over various subjects" but that it was not possible to respond to an insult through cultural and scientific work.

2,000 Stone UK Embassy

LD1502141689 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1358 GMT 15 Feb 89

[By Tom McMullan, Peter Archer, and Ray Clancy, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] A crowd of 2,000 stoned the British Embassy in Tehran today in a demonstration against Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses." Windows were broken and the British Charge d'affaires Mr Nicholas Browne asked the Iranian authorities for protection.

The protests came after yesterday's call by the Ayatollah Khomeyni for the murder of Rushdie and those involved in publishing the novel. Many Muslims believe the book is blasphemous and protests have led to deaths in street disturbances in Pakistan and the public burning of the novel outside a bookshop in Bradford.

Mr Rushdie, who lives in Islington, North London, was believed to be in hiding today with a round-the-clock armed police guard. Police were also guarding the headquarters of Rushdie's publishers Viking in Kensington, West London.

An expert on terrorism warned today that an Iranian hit squad may already be in Britain to carry out the Ayatollah's "death sentence". Mr Ian Geldard, a researcher at the Institute for the Study of Terrorism, told the PRESS ASSOCIATION it was most likely that a sleeper unit of fanatical assassins, possibly based among Iranian students, would be activated.

Mr Browne, speaking by telephone from Tehran on BBC Radio Four's the World at One programme, described how rubbish was being thrown at the embassy by demonstrators, but added: "We are all safe and well."

He said: "Today was declared a day of mourning because of the Ayatollah Khomeyni's statement on Mr Rushdie's book and there has been a demonstration going on outside the British Embassy over the last hour or so in support of the Ayatollah's declaration and against Britain."

Asked whether it was violent, Mr Browne, who arrived in Tehran only two weeks ago, said: "It is a noisy demonstration and a certain amount of rubbish has been thrown at the embassy, but so far no attempt has been made to break over the embassy wall."

He said they were not in danger. "Happily, we are all safe and well. We are still hoping that the demonstration will end as soon as possible so we can get back to our normal work."

The Foreign Office [FO] said that, according to reports reaching London, police and revolutionary guards had kept the crowd back from the diplomatic compound.

Meanwhile, police say they are investigating comments made by British Muslim leaders, including Sayed Abdul Quddus who was reported as saying he and his family would not hesitate to risk their lives in carrying out the death order and that Mr Rushdie deserved to hang. West Midlands Assistant Chief Constable Mr Colin Bailey said: "We are examining what is claimed is being said by Muslim leaders in the country and will seek advice from the Crown Prosecution Service."

Iran is also reported to be ready to impose a heavy sentence on British businessman and journalist Roger Cooper who has been held for three years on accusations of espionage. The Foreign Office said that Mr Browne was seeking an urgent meeting at the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A senior FO official in London, Mr Robert Young, today contacted the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Mr Ahkunzadeh Basti, to seek his help in arranging a meeting. [passage omitted] Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe acknowledged in a radio interview that it was strange that the Iranians had acted as they have when relations are improving. He said: "It illustrates the extreme difficulty of establishing the right kind of relationship with a manifestly revolutionary regime with ideas that are very much its own."

He defended Britain's decision to try to maintain diplomatic relations with Iran. He said: The whole business of diplomatic relations is not designed to serve the ends of diplomats but to try to serve the safety above all of the people of our country. One has to consider all these matters."

The Foreign Office was not prepared to say that the events of the past few days now represent a setback to the attempt to improve relations. [passage omitted]

IRNA on Protest at Embassy

LD1502154889 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Over 10,000 angry demonstrators gathered in front of the British Embassy in Tehran Wednesday protesting the publication in Britain of "The Satanic Verses" whose author was condemned to death by Imam Khomeyni for offending Islam.

Demonstrators, mostly university students, shouted "Death to England" and "Death to America" and urged Muslims of the world to rise up against "this scandalous conspiracy".

"The author and publishers of this book will not stay alive as long as Hezbollah is alive," said a student representative in a speech.

The book was first published last summer in Britain where its Muslim-born Indian author Salman Rushdie has also taken permanent residence.

Despite the high temperature, the protest in front of the embassy compound in downtown Tehran's Ferdowsi Avenue was held peacefully with police keeping the demonstrators several meters away from the main gate.

"I'm grateful that the demonstration was orderly," said Nicholas Browne Britain's new charge d'affaires at the embassy which was reopened in December.

"A few demonstrators hurled stones at the embassy windows but there was no damage or injury," he told IRNA.

Organized by Islamic students associations of Tehran universities, the demonstration began at Tehran University and steadily grew as other people joined in between the 3 kms distance.

Majlis Deputy Fakhreddin Hejazi addressing the crowd said Britain was "the enemy of the Koran and Islam and the manifestation of all things evil."

His following remark that Iranians were "disgusted from having relations with such a country" triggered loud cries of Allah-u Akbar.

The wide publicity about the controversial book following Sunday's demonstrations by Muslims in Islamabad where five people died, could stall moves to improve relations between London and Tehran at least in the short term.

There has been no direct impact on ties so far, but by being the first to allow the book to be published on its soil Britain could pay a heavy price for ignoring the strong sentiments of over one billion Muslims worldwide.

Britain's Conservative government has not shown any hesitation to block the publication of any material it has considered against its interests such as in the famous case of its former MI5 officer Peter Wright whose "Spycatcher" memoirs is still banned in Britain.

The protest was the latest by various groups and officials giving full support to Imam Khomeyni's call that Rushdie should be executed for writing what the vast majority of Muslims have regarded as blasphemous and offensive remarks about Islam's holiest figures.

'Day of Mourning' Declared

LD1402124488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] We shall begin the news this hour with the government's statement declaring tomorrow a national day of mourning:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To God we belong, and to Him we return. The Great Satan, the United States, who by publishing some poisonous and insulting material about Islam, the Koran, and the blessed prophet—may God's peace and benedictions be upon him—has taken a new step along the path of active hostility toward Islam and Muslims. Taking note of this new conspiracy and in accordance with the orders of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, tomorrow, 15 February, is declared a national day of mourning.

Another part of this statement reads: The Great Satan has decided—through provocation and humiliation, through the distortion of history, and through the attack on the sanctities of the great Islamic ummah by its merceneray writers [qalam-be-mozdah-ye khod]—to carry out this plot. This happens at a time when Mohammadan Islam is moving to awaken the dormant spirits of the oppressed and deprived nations of the world and when the luster of this Islam has shown the path of liberation to the revolutionary children of the world.

This happens today, when the oppressed Muslim nations, through following the Islamic revolution, have found the path of their liberation from the destiny the superpowers have determined for them. This happens due to the United States' inability to stifle the rising tide of the expansion of the frontiers of faith in the pure Mohammaddan Islam, despite all efforts and plots against it. This happens when, at every moment, the fear of the explosion of the concentrated energy of Islamic nations is threatening U.S. interests.

The Iranian Government expresses its appreciation to all the brave Muslims all over the world who have stood up against this new and dirty U.S. trick, and have demonstrated through their sensational moves that they are ready to give their lives to safeguard the sacred and revered frontiers of Islam. It also expresses congratulations and condolences to the families whose children have become the targets of the bullets fired from suspicious weapons, during the protests against the United States in an Islamic country, and have gone to heaven. The Iranian Government declares that it will not remain silent in the face of this dirty conspiracy and will take any steps it deems expedient to prevent this sinister plot.

We call on all Islamic nations not to be silent in the face of this new onslaught on the part of global arrogance, led by the United States against Islam and Muslims and against the Koran and the prophet of Islam. We call on them to raise their voice of protest against this satanic deed. We call on all Hezbollah cells in the Islamic world

to grasp the depth of this black conspiracy and, while expanding the alertness of their nation and societies, to take the necessary measures in order to neutralize this plot. We advise all Islamic governments not to place themselves against the million masses of angry Muslims but to demonstrate their disgust and anger, together with their nation, vis-a-vis this provocative U.S. deed.

[Signed] Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Prime Minister

Anti-U.S. Action Urged

LD1402173189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, in order to make clear his hatred and disgust of such satanic conspiracies [reference to publication of Rushdie book] masterminded by Islam's enemies—specifically the United States, the Great Satan—Ayatollah Montazeri has suspended his scripture lectures for tomorrow.

He has called on all committed Islamic authors and researchers not to hesitate to take actions in order to expose and fight such colonialist conspiracies which are carried out daily against Islam and Muslims by global Zionism, the United States, and other satanic powers.

Rushdie Called 'CIA Stooge'

LD1402174889 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—"CIA stooge" Salman Rushdie's satanic book which profanes the sanctity of Islam, the Holy Koran and Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) [peace be upon him] is "another blow aimed at the heart of Islam by the Great Satan (U.S.) and its mercenaries," thundered the interior minister today.

"The new blasphemy reveals the inherent nature of our enemies," Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi told a seminar of provincial officials at the Interior Ministry.

Earlier today, leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni sanctioned death penalty for Indian-born British national Salman Rushdie, author of the sacrilegious "The Satanic Verses" and all others involved in the publication of the venomous novel being fully aware of its blasphemous contents.

Anyone killed in trying to execute Rushdie would "God willing be a martyr," decreed the leader of the Islamic revolution.

In Islam, apostasy is punishable by death, and Rushdie by spitting poison on values and personalities dear to Muslims has certainly shown himself to be outside the pale of Islam.

Hoj. Mohtashemi turning to the Islamic Republic's good-intentions towards world countries, said "colonial powers like the U.S., Soviet Union, France and Britain have sucked the blood of nations, and laid waste world countries for their own vested interests."

During French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to Tehran (Feb. 5-6), the minister had questioned the wisdom of relations with Paris, one of the principal arms supplier of Iraq during its eight-year aggression against Iran.

Iran can firmly stand its place in the world thanks to the dynamism of Islam and revolution "if not they (superpowers) will destroy us," he warned.

The hojjat ol-eslam reiterated Iran's independence by relying on domestic sources in reconstruction efforts and said "that day wil be unfortunate when Iran relies on foreigners. The East and West superpowers are our sworn enemies."

Rushdie Cancels U.S.Visit

LD1402180989 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 14, IRNA—Muslims in Britain see Indian-born author Salman Rushdie as a "fraud" in his claim that he is seeking police protection following Imam Khomeyni's call to bring him to Islamic justice.

They say that he has always sought his own bodyguards since undertaking to write his scurrilous book against Islam "The Satanic Verses" for his publishers Viking Books, where it is thought he received advance payments of up to 500,000 pounds.

A cross-section of Muslim opinion were responding to Rushdie's decision to call off his planned visit to the U.S. to promote the new book following the leader of the Islamic revolution's sanctioning Tuesday that he and all those knowingly involved with what he was doing had been "sentenced to death".

The pronouncement comes after mass demonstrations in Britain, where the book was originally published, and outside the U.S. Cultural Centre in Islamabad on Sunday, where at least five Muslim protesters were gunned down by police.

Rushdie is seen by the Muslim community in Britain as having a special responsibility for his blasphemy against Islam, given his Muslim background.

They suggest his book was a deliberate conspiracy with what they say are "predominantly Jewish publishers" to test what the reaction would be to such blatant insults on the holy prophets (peace be upon them) and the Koran, the Almighty's final and most comprehensive revelation to mankind.

Speaking on BBC Radio after hearing his sentence, the Indian author said that he was taking the pronouncement "very seriously" but pleaded ignorance in knowing what he was doing.

Most of his previous books have a long history of saying bad things about Islam and is largely regarded by many people in the British Muslim community as a "professional slanderer" earning his living.

Born in Bombay of Muslim parentage and educated at Cambridge University in England, his works take the guise of being literary fiction to attack Islam and in an earlier book "Shame" he went out of his way in the middle to stigmatise Islamic beliefs.

Islam sanctions death penalty for apostasy and Rushdie justly deserves it, "The Satanic Verses" removing any doubt as to his being a "murtad" (apostate).

17 Feb Declared Day of Protest

LD1502113289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] To protest the publication of a book insulting the sanctities of Islam, the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council has declared Friday, 17 February, as the Day of Protest and Revulsion of the Islamic World to the latest satanic plot of the archcriminal, the United States. The council called on the Muslim Iranian nation to announce to the world its protest all the more crushingly in the ranks of the Friday prayers.

Archbishop Condemns Book

LD1502115589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The archbishop of the Iranian Armenian community, Ardak Manukiyan, in a message, has condemned the act of global arrogance and stated: All Armenian social and cultural activities will be closed down today.

The Central News Unit report from the provinces states that as a protest against the publication of a book that insults the sanctities of Islam, the bazaars in all cities of the country have closed down today and the Muslim people of Iran have condemned the latest plot of global arrogance and international Zionism in special ceremonies and gatherings.

Officials Comment on Book

LD1502112789 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 15 Feb 89

[By Khosrow Soltani]

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—As the public outburst against Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel is gaining momentum in the Muslim world, two leading officials of the Islamic Republic today condemned his "Satanic Verses" as a "well-calculated plot against Islam" and called for serious action to foil "this ominous conspiracy of arrogance."

As Iranians observed a day of national mourning today, in many cities shops and religious centers closed down and preparations for protest rallies were made by various organisations and groups within the coming days.

Speaking in a gathering of Muslim envoys here this morning, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati proposed the closure of cultural centers of the countries allowing insult against Islamic sanctities.

Another uproar today came from the Majlis where Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged Muslims as well as followers of other religions all over the world to "take firm action against this shameful move."

In a separate statement, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) announced the readiness of its forces "to carry out the imam's decree."

Imam Khomeyni on Tuesday [14 February] sanctioned death sentence for the author and the publishers of the anti-Islamic book and called on Muslims wherever they are to punish those behind the act.

The 41-year-old Indian-born British writer's 547-page "The Satanic Verses" was first published in Britain and another American publisher also intends to publish it in the states.

"As a first step, it would be effective and useful to shut down the cultural centers of those states which allow insults against Islam, the Holy Koran, the glorious prophet of Islam and Islamic sanctities," Velayati told ambassadors and charge d'affaires of Muslim countries here.

He also called for the convening of an "emergency meeting" of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) "to counter this treacherous and wicked conspiracy of colonialism against Islam."

The IRGC statement urged "oppressed and Muslim nations" throughout the world not to sit quiet until extermination of the author and publishers (if informed of the book's contents), and to voice their protest against "this satanic move" to the entire world.

Addressing the Majlis, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said "by underestimating the issue, tempters are trying to question the firm reaction of the imam and Muslims." Therefore, he said, "the people must be ever vigilant."

He added that "we would certainly react with the same severity if the sanctities of other divine religions and their prophets had been affronted."

"What has incited the imam, his successor, other religious leaders in (the holy city of) Qom and the Muslim people, is not merely the publication of a book or a novel against Islam, but the important thing is that a well-calculated and extensive plot has been orchestrated against Islam behind the curtain," the speaker remarked.

Velayati urged the Muslim envoys that Islamic states must take measures against the author of the book and its publishers so that "no one individual and no one state would dare to insult Islam and its sanctities."

He said the countries allowing the publication of such insults would face "a flood of hatred from the Muslim nations and governments."

"As Islamic states we must show to foreign governments that we will not tolerate disrespect to Islam and Islamic sanctities," he noted.

Velayati also stressed that the relationship between Muslim and non-Muslim states must be based on mutual respect and warned against attempts to negate this respect.

Khamene'i Interviewed on Book

NC1502110789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0714 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Live telephone interview with President Khamene'i in Tehran by unidentified correspondent carried on the special program devoted to the day of national mourning marking the publication of Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Even though His Excellency Mr Khamene'i has just returned from a trip by bus to Mazandaran Province where, as our dear compatriots know, he went to meet with the people there, and despite the fact that he is tired from his trip, he has nevertheless accepted our invitation. Thank you, Your Excellency.

As you know, the beliefs of 1 billion Muslims have been ridiculed by world arrogance, and the book "The Satanic Verses" has been republished. Because of this, we have a national mourning day today. Please speak to us about this and give us your assessment, within your capacity as the honorable president of the Islamic Republic and as a popular and renowned figure among world Muslims, on this and on how this abusive cultural act should be confronted.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the Almighty. After the Islamic revolution, when Islamic thought was revived in the Islamic world and Islamic life manifested as an outstanding event in political developments, it was only natural for the enemies of Islam, or more accurately, the enemies of the Islamic awakening and of the Muslims, to want to resort to any means to somehow overshadow this new incident—the awakening and revival of the Muslims. One of the things that began at the onset of the revolution was that hireling authors either distorted or questioned Islamic sanctities, Islamic beliefs, or some important and attractive Islamic incidents in the minds of the world's Muslims. Some even tried to ridicule these and to give them an ugly face.

What has recently been done by one such hireling author is not the first such act. Many similar things have happened before. But this is the most impudent incident, since other authors never dealt with the personality of the prophet or of other Islamic religious figures. This author, who appears to be both politically careless and of a mediocre level culturally and who, as we have heard, is affiliated with Britain's Royal Academy of Literature, volunteered to do something that would both satisfy his personal feelings—because as a rule, mediocre authors like commotion—and the objectives and grudges of the superpowers and world arrogance.

Therefore, he very impudently wrote a book. If this book had been ignored after it was written, I strongly believe that it would not have been widely received by the world's cultural and press circles because it is nothing great. It has no cultural value, let alone any historic or scientific value. However, the machinery of the arrogant, who basically resort to such acts after carrying out studies and forecasts and spend money to do so, started to propagate this book as soon as it was written. [passage omitted]

This issue is not an ordinary thing. It was not merely a matter of commenting on the beliefs of the Muslims or any other nation. [passage omitted] This was mud-slinging, impudence, very abusive, and was not valuable culturally or scientifically. This was playing with Muslim beliefs and with Muslim sentiments and distorting Islamic sanctities.

The fate of this is clear from the religious jurisprudence point of view. The imam's decree is one that any Islamic scholar would issue on the basis of Islamic teachings. This is an irrevocable dictum. In other words, the person who sheds the blood of anyone who makes such a mistake is undoubtedly immune. Those who make such mistakes should be annihilated. Whoever strives toward this will have done a worthy act. As the imam stated, if anyone is killed in doing so, he will be considered a martyr. Therefore, from an Islamic and religious point of view, the issue is completely clear. It is also clear politically. The people of Pakistan and some other Muslims fortunately understood quickly and clearly that this is a provocation by the United States and by the minions of the arrogant powers.

Therefore, as the imam has stated, it is necessary for all zealous Muslims to castigate this dissolute hireling. He should be punished. I am confident that this will happen. Of course, he may resort to assistance from some of the security, political, and other bodies. Nevertheless, the nation [words indistinct] is always more than such

measures. We hope this will be a lesson for world arrogant powers so that they can understand that they cannot play with Muslims' feelings. One of the definite outcomes of this issue politically was that it completely disgraced world arrogance and the United States and brought to light the policies that are behind this.

[Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, what is your message to the zealous Muslim youth in all the corners of the world on implementing the recent decree by his holiness the imam? Also, what is your message to the Islamic scholars on a cultural approach to this abusive act?

[Khamene'i] After the imam's decree and order, the brave and pious youth do not need any other message; all of us feel a sense of duty to the imam's decree. As for the scholars, undoubtedly they should prepare to face any kind of attack on Islamic culture and to defend this culture. However, before this attack, they should destroy all bases that exist for such an attack to be possible. However, I repeat, what we are speaking about is not something cultural. We are speaking about an insult. What is the answer to an insult? Well, an insult cannot be answered by scientific and cultural works. Therefore, cultural works must be confronted by cultural works. However, this is something that is actually of a very much lower level than a cultural work.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. We hope you will excuse us for having caused you inconvenience in view of your tiredness.

[Khamene'i] Thank you very much.

IRGC's Reza'i Comments

NC1502123789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0712 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Statement by IRGC Commander Mohsen Reza'i carried on program devoted to the day of national mourning marking the publication of Salman Rushdie's book, "The Satanic Verses" on 15 February; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Almighty. Greetings to all the combatants of Islam throughout the world and to our country's martyr-nurturing ummah. The insult that has been made to the prophet of God and to Islamic sanctities by the enemies of Islam should not stand without reaction and without punishment. The Muslims should react seriously, and the enemies that resorted to this act should be punished.

For a long time, the world has been trying to find a way and a policy for harming Islamic sanctities. If they succeed in doing so, they will undoubtedly destroy the concentrated Islamic potential and will lead Muslims to other paths.

If in the criminal Mecca incident the world of Islam had reacted widely, undoubtedly this incident would not have been repeated.

All the Muslims of the world, and especially our martyr-nurturing ummah which has always been a forerunner of Islamic activities, should now show their strong reaction by attacking this act. Thank God, with the revolutionary and timely dictum issued by his holiness the imam, this has started. We, the country's IRGC, have been ordered to participate—with all our mobilization forces and Guards—in today's spectacular ceremonies as well as in the ceremony on Friday. God willing, we hope that this timely and all-embracing reaction by the world's Islamic ummah and particularly by our martyr-nurturing people will be a lesson so that no one will again dare to insult our Islamic sanctities.

UK Foreign Ministry Statement

LD1502114889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] According to IRNA, following the message of the leader of the Islamic revoluton and the protest movement of the world's Muslims with regard to the publication in the West of an anti-Islamic book, the British Foreign Ministry issued a very cautious statement, expressing concern over the issuance of Imam Khomeyni's judgment [fatwa].

In this brief staement, an effort is made to defer the British Government's taking a position until some time in the future. This report states that the publisher of the book "The Satanic Verses," who is a Jew, paid Salman Rushdie, who has a reputation for writing anti-Islamic books, half a million pounds before the book was written.

Khomeyni Threatens Broadcasters With Death

PM1402141588 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jan 89 p 2

[Text] Following the broadcasting of an insulting program called "Model for the Muslim Woman" on the Voice of the Islamic Republic, the imam sent a letter to the managing director of the radio and television enterprise. Here is the text of the imam's letter:

In the name of God, Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic: I note with great regret and sadness that the Voice of the Islamic Republic yesterday broadcast a program on a role model for women which makes one ashamed even to speak about it.

The person who broadcast this program will be punished and sacked. All those involved with the program will be punished. If it is proved that there was an intention to insult, the guilty person is without a doubt sentenced to death.

If this sort of thing is repeated, it will be followed by severe and serious punishment, and a reprimand for the high officials of the radio and television. Of course, the judicial power will be involved in all cases.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni, 29 January 1989

Amnestied Prisoners To Meet Press 15 Feb
LD1502090189 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 15, IRNA—Several leaders of the counterrevolutionary grouplets recently released from jail following Imam Khomeyni's general amnesty, are to hold a press conference at Tehran's Laleh Hotel at 17:00 hours [1330 GMT] Wednesday.

Foreign and domestic reporters may attend.

Upon request by (security) Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, Imam Khomeyni issued the general amnesty on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

So far hundreds of the prisoners have been freed and the rest are to be freed within a month.

Week-Long Anti-Drug Smuggling Campaign Begins
LD1202123689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Following the approval of the anti-narcotics headquarters, the great crushing Val'adiat project will come into force for 1 week, starting today, which is the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Revolution's Committee.

According to an IRNA report, in order to implement this project, 70 percent of the Islamic Revolution Committee will be utilized in the campaign against the merchants of death, and the Islamic Revolution Committee forces will be present on all streets.

The Islamic Revolution Committee has called on the people to give any information pertaining to the drug smugglers directly to the units stationed at most junctions and the city's susceptible areas, in order to aid the Committee in identifying and arresting the drug smugglers.

The Islamic Revolution's Committee also stated that those addicts who are arrested during the implementation of this project, will be sent to Sistan va Baluchestan Province to dig canals in the prohibited border region.

68 Drug Traffickers Hanged Nationwide
LD1402132889 Tehran IRNA in English 1322 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Ten notorious drug traffickers, including three women, were hanged in Tehran early Tuesday.

The women were sent to the gallows in the compound of Qasr Prison in Tehran for moral corruption and involvement in drug smuggling for years while the rest were hanged on Javanmard Qassab Street, Rah Ahan (railway) Square and Roodhen, a suburb of Tehran.

Fifty-eight other smugglers were hanged in 30 other cities and towns today. This brings to 173 the number of smugglers executed since a new strict anti-drug law took effect on January 21.

This was the highest number of executions involving drug smugglers since the 16 January hanging of 56 traffickers.

Despite freezing weather and heavy snow, Rah Ahan Square and Javanmard Qassab Street had been crowded by people hours before the smugglers were hanged. An eyewitness told IRNA the whole nation support the government's tight crackdown on drug trafficking, and hoped "God willing, this move will continue until the Iranian people get rid of narcotics and drug addiction."

A 52-year old woman said she was glad to see the smugglers whom she described as "leeches" hanged because they were responsible for her son's death from addiction. "I hope to live long enough to witness the eradication of narcotics from the country," she said.

Khamene'i Assails U.S. 'Hostile Policy'
LD1402184289 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 14 Feb 89

["Ties With U.S. Out of Question, Says President"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., Feb. 14, IRNA—It is not possible to make any decision on U.N. Resolution 598 unless the occupation forces withdraw from Iranian territory, cautioned President 'Ali Khamene'i here Tuesday.

"Without doubt," Khamene'i said, "we will not welcome war but this does not necessarily mean that our people will tolerate for long the enemy's presence on Iranian soil."

The Islamic Republic has not initiated, and will never initiate a war but the Iranian people and combatants are quite ready to defend by all means their Islamic homeland, the president told a large group of local people.

Commenting on Iran's foreign relations policy, Khamene'i said the Islamic Republic will never establish ties with such illegitimate regimes as Israel and South Africa.

On ties with U.S., he said "as long as Washington does not change its hostile policy towards Iran this is out of question," stressed Khamene'i who arrived here today on an inspection tour of the Caspian province of Mazandaran.

Later on Tuesday, the president visited Babol, west of this provincial capital and told a large gathering that "as the setting up of the Islamic system caught the world by surprise the survival of the revolution has stunned big powers."

Outlining plots of enemies of the Islamic revolution over the past decade, Khamene'i reiterated "contrary to adverse propaganda, Islamic Iran has not retreated even an inch from its avowed principles."

The Islamic revolution still sticks to its neither-East-nor-West policy, the president concluded.

U.S. Scholar Calls for New Relations With U.S.
LD1102152889 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 11 Feb 89

["Analyst Calls on U.S., Iran To Drop Mutual Antagonism"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, Feb. 11, IRNA—The tenth anniversary of the Islamic revolution offered a good opportunity for U.S.-Iranian hostilities to end and for relations to be put onto a new footing, an American strategist has called.

Shireen Hunter, deputy director of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, pointing that the Islamic revolution has completed a decade and that the Islamic government was not on the verge of collapse, said a working relationship with Iran would help the U.S. to safeguard its interests stretching from Afghanistan to Lebanon.

Hunter noted that the new U.S. President George Bush had already set the "right tone" for start of a dialogue and was hopeful that a similar response of goodwill from Tehran would help to break the deadlock where neither country wanted to be seen making concessions.

The best move, she felt, for both the U.S. and Iran would be to make "simultaneous gestures" that would not make one country look like depending on the other.

For the Bush administration, this would mean a more neutral policy in the Persian Gulf by telling Iraq that a "discriminatory" peace settlement was unacceptable, and for Iran to use its influence in Lebanon to secure the release of as many American hostages as possible, she suggested.

The Iranian-born analyst is married to President Carter's former advisor Robert Hunter, and in an article in the LOS ANGELES TIMES she pointed out that Iran since 1979 had survived a brutal war, economic chaos and virtual isolation from the world community, yet there was still no signs of an obvious or more palatable alternative emerging in Tehran.

The strength of the Islamic government lies in the fact that it had endured numerous attempts, supported by foreign powers, to bring it down, but instead of collapsing it had "matured" she said.

Iran remained a "strategically important country" and will continue to play a significant role in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, Hunter stressed, and called for "healing the mutual wounds of the past," between Washington and Tehran.

Reyshahri on Amnesty, British 'Spy' Case Ruling
LD1402142689 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—There are 2,600 members of counterrevolutionary grouplets in Iranian jails out of a total of 3,500, who will be released by March 20, Information Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri announced Tuesday.

The minister also said a Briton jailed on spying charges had received a "heavy" sentence by a court but the final judgment against him was still being considered.

Since Saturday 1,500 have been released from prisons throughout the country following an amnesty proposed by Reyshahri and approved by Imam Khomeyni on 8 February. It excludes 900 prisoners jailed for more serious crimes.

Reyshahri, saying it was necessary to provide released prisoners with employment facilities, promised to bring up the issue at the next cabinet session.

He said three top members of Iran Freedom Movement Party Hashem Sabbaghian, Mohammad Tavasoli and Mansuriyan had been freed under the imam's amnesty. Reyshahri denied suggestions that international political pressure had forced Iran to proclaim amnesty. "Those knowing Imam Khomeyni very well are aware of this fact that he will in no way surrender to political pressure."

Also commenting on the imprisoned Briton Roger Cooper Reyshahri said legal procedures regarding this case had been completed and a "heavy ruling" had been issued. However, Reyshahri added: "The judiciary is to issue its final ruling in the future."

Cooper, who was jailed on spying charges in December 1985, had admitted the charges and "nothing could halt this case," the minister stressed. He repeated a comment by Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi last month that statements made by British officials on the issue were "illegal and an interference in the country's internal affairs."

Reyshahri said that Cooper had worked in key government centers as the Ministries of Plan and Budget and Foreign Affairs as well as radio and television organization in Iran since 1958. He started his "direct activities as a spy for the British intelligence service" in 1966 and for its Iran section, according to his own confession, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Reyshahri added.

Minister on Treatment of Prisoner in UK
LD1402190889 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—In a uniquely pathetic, highly eloquent, markedly declamatory and dramatically oratorical language Iran's Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Abol Qasem Sarhadizadeh Tuesday deplored the "brutality of British prison wardens" with an Iranian prisoner in London.

In his open letter to the prisoner in British jail, which appeared in today's issue of the Persian daily KEYHAN, the Iranian minister drew a parallel between the government in London and "extremely suppressive and racist regimes" in other parts of the world such as Pretoria, saying "the British are making it hard for you mainly because of your devotion to Islam and the universal Islamic revolution."

The Iranian Muslim, Koresh Fuladi, was arrested in London in December 1980 and sentenced to nine years imprisonment for a bomb which went off in his own car in London killing two of his own friends and injuring himself. Throughout trial session Fuladi asserted that the time-bomb had been planted not by him but by members of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO). He drew attention to his active opposition to the hypocrites and their violent practices.

"The British are unabashedly demonstrating their hostility with the Islamic revolution by refusing to release the Iranian prisoner on parole," said Sarhadizadeh. He said, the Iranian prisoner has logn since served two-thirds of his sentence but that despite the express provision in the British laws for release of sch prisoners on parole the Iranian prisoner has not yet been freed.

Sarhadizadeh has said in his letter to Fuladi that he knows his captors urinate on his head and that his prison wards have had him sexually assaulted "by drunkards at nighttime" and let him cohabit with mentally unsound prisoners and suffer under various other forms of torture.

He noted, however, that in the face of the situation British spy Roger Cooper who has repeatedly confessed of having engaged in espionage activities in Iran continues to receive a humane treatment consistent wituh the dictates of Islam.

Cooper has confessed to his "direct activities as a spy for the British intelligence service" and for its Iran Section following the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979.

According to Information Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri today the case of the British spy has been completed and "the judiciary is to soon issue its final verdict."

It is also to be recalled that Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi has brushed aside British officials' statements on the case of the confessed spy as "illegal and an interference in the country's internal affairs."

In a rhetorical question posed to the Iranian prisoner in London the labour minister's letter asked him if he would like to see a similar treatment with Roger Cooper by the Islamic government, but hastened to add that he knows Fuladi would not feel happy at hearing that the Iranians are reciprocating by a similar behavior with Roger Cooper in Iran.

Sarhadizadeh has called on the Iranian prisoner in London to consider his imprisonment simply as a small token of the hostility of the oppressive world powers with Islam, and rest assured that despite the imprisonments, chemical bombings, fightings and hundreds of other forms of superpower plots against the Islamic revolution the movement will eventually become universal.

UK Minister on Visit to Iraq To Expand Ties
LD1102141689 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] London, Feb. 11, IRNA—British Minister for Middle East Affairs William Waldegrave arrives in Baghdad Sunday as part of a 3-national [as received] visit to the region that also includes Kuwait and Bahrain.

He is the first Foreign Office minister to visit Iraq since last August's Iran-Iraq ceasefire, and his talks in Baghdad will focus on bilateral ties and British participation in Iraq's post-war reconstruction.

Throughout the 8-year Iraq-Iran war London tried to maintain good ties with Baghdad sending delegations to boost economic ties with the Ba'thist regime, in contrast to its hostile attitude towards Tehran.

However, since the Iran-Iraq ceasefire, Britain is trying to walk a delicate tightrope in its ties with Iraq in its desire to improve ties with Tehran.

A British-Iraq dispute last year linked with activities of Iraqi death squads in London was quickly settled. In October three Iraqi diplomats were expelled from the U.K. for "activities incompatible with their status," but soon afterwards Britain doubled its credit facilities to Baghdad to pounds 350 million for 1989.

Last week the British Foreign Office expressed "concern" over the Iraqi use of poison gas against the Kurds, but it is doubtful if the issue would be raised by Waldegrave with officials, given Britain's economic interests in Iraq.

Waldegrave's predecessor David Mellor visited the Iraq capital last year in February when Tehran and other Iranian cities were in the grip of massive missile attacks by the Ba'thist regime.

Iravani Departs for Malaysian Ministers' Meeting
LD1102105489 Tehran IRNA in English 0817 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 11, IRNA—Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani left here for Kuala Lumpur this morning to attend the first meeting of Iran-Malaysia joint ministerial commission.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA before departure, Irvani said he would hand a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to his Malaysian counterpart Mahathir Mohamad.

He added the visit was in response to a visit to Tehran by his Malaysian counterpart Daim bin Zainuddin in March.

Referring to the past record of economic cooperation between the two countries, Iravani said one problem in mutual economic ties was that trade exchanges were carried out via a third country. But the problem was solved following talks recently between Central Bank governors of Malaysia and Iran and the establishment of banking arrangements.

"Iran and Malaysia have many points in common, and both are members of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and can have fruitful cooperation," added the minister.

Irvani also said during his visit, grounds for Tehran-Kuala Lumpur industrial, technical, agricultural, trade, and oil cooperation will be discussed.

On his four-day visit to Malaysia, Iravani is accompanied by a number of officials from Finance, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and Oil Ministries.

Khamene'i Inaugurates Babol Telephone Exchange
LD1402121588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] President Khamene'i, who is in Babol to visit the inhabitants of Mazandaran Province, addressed a large gathering of the citizens and compared the Islamic revolution with other contemporary revolutions in the world. He said: Through its self-sacrifice and sincere efforts in this period, our nation has managed to cause an incident in the world which, in comparison with other similar political incidents, is something nearly impossible.

The president stated that the expansion of global arrogance has been a vehicle of propagating the idea that the Islamic revolution has diverted from its positions. He reiterated that the revolution has remained firm in all its neither-East-nor-West dimensions and since its inception has become more literate, stronger, and more aware. Mr Khamene'i added: The establishment of the Islamic system astonished the entire world, just as the survival of the revolution inflicted vertigo on the world's great powers.

The president also inaugurated the first phase in Mazandaran Province's intercity telecommunication center project today. The center is situated in Babol and has a capacity of 1650 units. With the commissioning of this project, 12 towns in Mazandaran Province have been given telephone codes and linked to the country's intercity telecommunications network.

Chief Justice Discusses Need for Law, Order
LD1202152389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] The judiciary has given priority to waging a decisive campaign against those who violate public property in order to guarantee justice and social security. Mr Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council, stated the above during his visit to Yazd Province, at the joint morning prayers ceremony of the Yazd Armed Forces.

According to our correspondent, at this ceremony which was held in conjunction with the anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Revolution Committee in the presence of the imam's representative in Yazd Province, the governor general, clerics, and members of the military and law enforcement forces, as well as armed Forces Personnel present at the headquarters of Yazd's Islamic Revolution Committee, the country's chief prosecutor remarked that at the start of the 2d decade of the Islamic revolution and with the end of the war, we can no longer be forgiven by God, nor can we justify ourselves before the people for putting up with the mischiefs and corrupt actions of a number of property devourers. The crackdown on and prosecution of these gangs of corruption is an absolute necessity today, especially in Yazd Province.

Having praised the Armed Forces and stressing the importance of their duty of disseminating justice, fighting perpetrators, and maintaining social justice, he said: The establishment of our foundations was implemented on the basis of meticulous planning and discretion. But the establishment of the holy Islamic Revolution Committee came simultaneously with the victory and birth of a vital necessity, and today our brothers from the committee are serving on the front line of the campaign against the perpetrators and users of narcotics.

He added: In Yazd Province, praise be to God, due to the presence of eminent clerics such as the martyred Ayatollah Sadoghi, and the deceased Ayatollah Khatami,

there are no dangerous elements to disturb social security, and Yazd is one of the outstanding provinces in the country. However, we should bear in mind that the duty of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not limited to the procurement of water and electricity and other welfare services, but the maintenance of justice and security in society. This is a basic necessity and, God willing, it will come into effect with the aid of the imam's representative, the governor general, and the rest of the executive, judicial, legislative, and Armed Forces.

Concluding his remarks, the country's chief prosecutor stated: In the first few months of the Islamic revolution's victory, we felt isolated in the world, but today, having put a decade behind us, we are witnesses to the flourishing and dissemination of the culture of this revolution in most parts of the world, which has been made possible through the people's unity, faith, courage, and good leadership; we should keep it that way.

Students Express Views on Notice Boards
LD1302091589 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—University students in Tehran are expressing their hearts desire, about politics or their next door neighbor, in letters and cartoons posted on "free columns".

Reflecting letters from students signing as "a particle of the universe", "AA", "Forever" or "B-52", the column has provided a new outlet for the expression of strong points of view much of it not seen in the national media.

"We thought the conditions after the war was calm enough to go ahead with the idea," said Vahid Ziya'i, who initiated one of the most popular columns at Tehran University's Medical College.

When "free column" notice boards were put up in late September by the Tehran University's technical college it did not have much of an appeal.

Letters had to be handed in person and then rewritten and shortened before appearing on the board.

But the medical college's "free column" which went up two months later came with a letter box and xerox copies of the letters, and cartoons were posted without alterations.

"Since then we have posted about 350 articles and we have had to enlarge the board by another square meter to be able to cope with the increasing letters," Ziya'i, who is the secretary of the college's Islamic Society, told IRNA Sunday.

Nevertheless, when the board first went up at the medical college it was not taken seriously. Those who had strong views against the government thought it was a joke, others thought it was not necessary or didn't care. It took some time to build confidence.

"It was chaos," Ziya'i said, "we first had things like someone who wrote about how much they hate their neighbor. Now they are more serious."

When the letters appeared regularly it was taken more seriously, though the opponents of the government were turning in more letters than the supporters.

"Our religious brothers came to us and said 'What's all this? You are giving prominence to these people'," he said.

"But I told them you have to stop self-censorship and learn to speak out and respond. And they did. Now we have reached a relative balance."

The "free column" has now spread to a number of other colleges and universities. The first was believed to have been set up at the theology college last June but made it a rule not to post articles that criticized the war.

IRNA was shown a file from the medical college's column with more than 200 letters and cartoons including one lampooning the column as a means of letting off steam and another caricaturizing the loose Islamic cover of some girl students.

Nearly all were signed anonymously and altered their handwriting to avoid recognition.

One of the most talked about writers signed as "B-52" made sharp criticism of the country's affairs. He also drew a cartoon showing a man in a cell painting the chains around his feet.

A three-man council which oversees the letters usually respond as they appear, prompting some to give up their criticisms, Ziya'i said. "B-52 said he was not going to write anymore but we think he's back with another initial."

The column is said to be popular with as many as 30 students gathering to read them in between classes each day. New letters go up every three days. The column is not active during the current examinations and will resume on march 4.

Some government cultural organizations have requested the Islamic societies to hand over the letters so they could control which ones appear and what answers should be given to them. "We refused because they were goverment agencies."

"Some think it's a temporary thing, but it's here to stay," Ziya'i believed.

So much so that he thinks next year would be a good time to start a bolder experiment: A "free tribune" where students would say what their hearts desire in front of a microphone.

Tehran-Karaj Train Canceled for Lack of Interest

LD1302093589 Tehran IRNA in English 0930 GMT 13 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 13, IRNA—The much publicized train service between Tehran and Karaj came to a halt after only ten days because of what the state railway organization has described the lack of public enthusiasm.

The service, backed by a newspaper advertising campaign, was to provide an alternative to buses and private cars [for] those Karaj residents who travel 45 kms to work in Tehran in the day time.

Starting February 1, the train left Karaj for Tehran early in the morning and returned in the afternoon.

But apparently lack of coordination was partly responsible. Passengers were at first told to gatrher at the Karaj main square to catch a minibus to the new train station. But there were no minibuses and the train left empty.

The state railways did not say how many used the service during the ten days but said people had "not welcomed" it and the service would not resume "until further notice."

Iran Freedom Party Holds News Conference

LD1202182289 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 12, IRNA—The government must lift the ban on opposition newspapers and provide necessary security for free political activity to show its "sincerity" in implementing the law on political parties, the Iran Freedom [IFM] Party said Sunday.

IFM expressed hope that the government's decision to enforce the law after seven years was a serious move towards democratization and not "a show" in response to "internal and external pressures."

"For the sake of Iran's well-being, we hope the government will pass this crucial test... There exists no other path," the party said in a statement.

The statement was distributed at a press conference attended by domestic and foreign reporters at the Hoseyniyeh Ershad Islamic Center in northern Tehran where IFM leader Mehdi Bazargan and his senior assistants Yadollah Sahabi, Ibrahim Yazdi and Farid Alam were present.

They said they were preparing the necessary documents to seek a permit for IFM's official recognition. "We will participate in the presidential elections (next summer) and any other elections providing the existance of a free climate," said Yazdi who answered most questions in the 80-minute press conference. The IFM had not decided on its presidential candidate.

Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said last last year that from 31 December political and cultural organizations could start applying for permits to engage in political activities according to the party law which was suspended because of the war.

So far over thirty parties have signed up.

"If the people accept parties and group work we will move towards an acceptable multi-party system. This is our hope and effort... and we are hopeful of the future," Yazdi said.

Bazargan, 81, became the first premier after the 1979 revolution but resigned after eight months under a hail of criticism that his IFM-dominated cabinet was too slow in carrying out revolutionary changes and too soft with Western powers, particularly the United States.

Yazdi was deputy prime minister and foreign minister in Bazargan's cabinet.

The IFM has also come under attack for its position on the subject of Velayat-ye Faqih (leadership of the state by the 'ulema) but questioned on the issue, Yazdi said the Freedom Movement accepted Velayat-ye Faqih within the framework stipulated in the constitution.

"Regardless of the existing views and understandings, this subject is a principle of the Constitution... and we must accept it," he added. "We are not against the system. We oppose the actions of the (government)."

"Provided a free press, freedom of gatherings, and freedom of thought, we will not turn our backs... And we will actively take part in elections."

The last time the IFM actively took part in elections was for the first Majlis in 1980. It won less than ten of the 270 seats.

In its statement the IFM welcomed as a "positive action" the release of members of political grouplets from prison, including its last three remaining leading members.

But it said "to convince the people of its seriousness and sincerity" in implementing the party law, the government must take certain steps.

These include the reopening of the offices of the IFM and other political parties, lifting the ban on some newspapers such as IFM's daily MIZAN, and ensuring the security of opposition political leaders and activists provided according to the law.

The press conference was the latest step by the IFM's leadership to make the most out of the more relaxed political atmosphere following last August's ceasefire in the Iraqi imposed war, the continuation of which the IFM opposed to.

In its latest issue the monthly current affairs magazine ADINEH has published an interview with Bazargan and Yazdi. On January 24, the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES and the Persian ABRAR printed the first interview of the Iranian press with Bazargan in 7 years.

Interior Minister Mohtashemi said in a recent interview that the publication of Bazargan's remarks in the press were a sign of freedom in the country.

Clergymen, Commanders Executed for Planning Coup

TA1402170689 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] It is being said in informed Tehran circles that at the beginning of Bahman [month beginning 21 January], a group of clergymen opposed to the regime, along with a number of IRGC commanders, was arrested while holding a meeting aimed at staging a coup against the Islamic Republic regime.

Eighteen clergymen took part in this meeting, all of whom were executed without trial by the Islamic Republic regime. In a report we received in this connection, it was stressed that the Islamic Republic regime executed all the IRGC commanders who participated in the meeting. There is still no accurate information about the number of IRGC commanders who were executed.

Nepal

Eight Boundary Demarcation Teams Begin Work

BK1302120189 Hong Kong AFP in English 2006 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 12 (AFP)—Eight Indo-Nepalese boundary teams have begun demarcation work in three sectors of Nepal's borders running parallel with India, a senior Nepalese Foreign Ministry official said Sunday.

The joint teams have agreed to complete the boundary demarcation work by the end of December and to clear the ten yard stretch of "no man's land" running alongside the Nepal/Indian border through 1,040 kilometers (640 miles) of tropical plain.

An official source said the work was being carried out as part of the 1816 Sugauli Treaty between Nepal and then-British rulers of India.

The current demarcation work is in the southwestern, mid, and far southwestern sectors of Nepal along the border with the Indian states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Reaction to Rushdie Book

Protests Continue Nationwide

BK1402155189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] The movement for the protection of [word indistinct] has formed a delegation, which will establish contacts with the diplomats of the United States and the United Kingdom to work against the publication of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses."

Announcing this at a news conference in Islamabad today, the founder of the movement, Maulana Kausar Niazi, said Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan will head the delegation, which will include Senator Kazi Hussain Ahmed, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, and Hafiz Hussain Ahmed.

There were protest demonstrations and strikes to condemn the publication of the book "The Satanic Verses" at various places in the country today including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Multan, Bahawalpur, and Quetta.

A peaceful procession was held in Karachi and almost all the business establishments remained closed. There was a public meeting of people in Quetta, in which protests were voiced against this blasphemous book.

General Strike in Karachi

BK1402151489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1447 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Karachi, Feb 14 (AFP)—A general strike was observed here Tuesday while fundamentalist religious leaders staged a protest over the publication of a controversial book alleged to be anti-Islamic.

Main business centers and industries were closed in this port city, but transportation continued to run.

Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, head of the ultra-fundamentalist Jamiyat-i 'Ulema-i Pakistan (JUP), led a procession through the city's downtown to denounce the publication of "The Satanic Verses," claiming the book by Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie was anti-Islamic.

Five people were killed on Sunday when police opened fire on a crowd that attacked a U.S. cultural center in Islamabad after opposition parties called for a demonstration to prevent the planned U.S. republication of the book.

On Monday, demonstrators took to the streets in Karachi, Rawalpindi near Islamabad, and Peshawar in the northwest.

In Rawalpindi thousands of people paraded, shouting "Down With Benazir" and "Long live Ziaul Haq."

Analysts said Moslem fundamentalists and supporters of late President Ziaul Haq seemed to have joined forces in the protests, the first direct challenge to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto since she took office in December.

Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif, a former supporter of General Ziaul Haq, sent flowers to three religious leaders injured in Sunday's clash as a gesture of solidarity with protests against the government, sources close to him said.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif is head of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), a right-wing nine-party alliance which forms the main opposition in the National Assembly and holds a majority in the Senate.

The IJI has demanded that Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan accept responsibility for Sunday's incident and resign.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the government has also asked the publishers of "The Satanic Verses" to withdraw all copies of the book from the market and to destroy them, or be blacklisted.

Committee To Investigate Clash

BK1402162889 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The National Assembly today constituted a 25-member special committee to go into the Sunday's [12 February] police firing [near U.S. Information Center] in Islamabad during its debate on the two identical privilege motions on the incident.

The committee is headed by the minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Iftikhar Hussain Gilani, and includes members from all sides of the house. Earlier, a number of members took part in the discussion on the privilege motions. [passage omitted]

The federal education minister, Syed Amir Hyder Kasmi, speaking on the motion described the incident as a clever conspiracy hatched by the reminiscent [as heard] of martial law period to destabilize the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government by exploiting the name of Islam.

He challenged the claim of the organizers that the processionists were unarmed and wondered who then killed the guard at the American Center.

The minister of state for culture and sport, Mir Baz Mohammad Khan, questioned the motives of the opposition leaders in bringing the innocent people on the road to achieve their own motives.

The house will meet again on Thursday [16 February] morning.

Leaders Approve Khomenyi Call

BK1502112289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 15 (AFP)—Several Pakistani religious leaders on Wednesday supported Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomenyi's call for the death of British author Salman Rushdie because of his latest book "The Satanic Verses."

"Rushdie has committed a grave sin by writing a fictitious and blasphemous book against the holy prophet Muhammad. He is an infidel and must be beheaded," Mohson Ali, principal of the main Shi'ite Muslim school here said.

Indian-born Mr. Rushdie said in Britain he was taking very seriously the Ayatollah Khomenyi's call for his "execution" on Tuesday and that he might have to think about asking for police protection.

Muslims in Britain have held protests against the book and six people were killed here [Islamabad] Sunday when police opened fire on a crowd outside the U.S. Cultural Center protesting against publication of the book in the United States.

"Imam Khomeyni is a living expounder of Muslim laws. His statements are religious orders binding on the Shi'ite community," Mr. Ali said.

Mr. Ali said it was the duty of Shi'ite believers "to employ whatever means available to carry out the order (the death sentence)."

Maulana Abdullah, a leader of Pakistan's Sunnite Muslim community and chief priest of Islamabad's main mosque, said the entire Islamic world was united on the issue.

"Anybody who kills Rushdie will do a service to Islam and go to paradise," he said.

He said a protest would be held Friday throughout Pakistan "to condemn the publication of the blasphemous book and the police firing on Sunday on the peaceful demonstration."

The book has been banned in several countries including Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

(In predominantly Muslim Bangladesh, newspapers published frontpage articles Wednesday on Ayatollah Khomenyi's call for the "execution" of Mr. Rushdie but refrained from comment.

(A spokesman for the right-wing Jamiyat-i Islami Party said "The Satanic Verses" was an objectionable book and "should be banned worldwide."

(But spokesman Muhammad Kamaruzzaman declined to comment on the call by Mr. Khomeyni for Mr. Rushdie's death.)

Further on Iranian Deputy Prime Minister's Visit

Meets With Benazir Bhutto

BK1502023789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Alireza Mo'ayeri called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday evening. They exchanged views on the situation in and around Afghanistan as well as relations between Pakistan and Iran.

Afghanistan Situation Discussed

LD1502084989 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 15, IRNA—Deputy Premier 'Alireza Mo'ayeri, who is currently on an official visit to Islamabad, met and conferred with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Tuesday [14 February].

In the meeting, also attended by Pakistani foreign minister, the two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and on future of Afghanistan. Expansion of relations and the need to strengthen unity among Afghan mujahidin were also emphasized by both sides.

Mo'ayeri conveyed Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's message to Ms. Bhutto in which the need for greater unity among Afghan mujahidin was stressed.

In response, Bhutto referring to the necessity for development of bilateral relations, said the two countries should consolidate their mutual understanding on all aspects particularly on Afghanistan issue.

She further urged that great attention must be paid to the expansion of a joint trade commission scheduled to be held in Tehran within a month.

Deputy prime minister in the meeting asked Ms. Bhutto to visit Tehran which was accepted.

Mo'ayeri, heading a political delegation, arrived here Feb. 12 to hand President Khamene'i's message to his Pakistani counterpart Ghulam Ishaq Khan linked with the Afghan issue.

Spokesman Comments on Afghanistan Situation

BK1502113189 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The final verification of the withdrawal of Soviet troops is to be made by the United Nation's Good Offices Mission for Afghanistan and Pakistan, whether the withdrawal has been completed or any advisers have been left behind.

This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman while talking to newsmen in Islamabad today. He said the withdrawal would pave the way for a comprehensive settlement based on the right of self-determination of the Afghan people.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said both Pakistan and Iran were trying the to resolve the difference of opinion between the Afghan alliance leaders based in the two countries on the question of representation in the Afghan consultative council.

He again described as baseless the allegation that Pakistani troops had been amassed along Pak-Afghan border. He also denied the report attributing to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan a suggestion of formation of a confederation of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Nawaz Sharif Elected Head of Opposition Party

BK1102165289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Feb 89

[Text] A meeting of the heads of the component parties of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democratic Alliance] was held in Lahore today. It unanimously elected Mr Nawaz Sharif as its president for 1 year. The meeting also reviewed political situation in the country and the question of repeal of eighth amendment in the Constitution.

Party Opposes Transfer of Power

BK1402161189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Text] Members of the Central Executive Committee of the Pakistan Muslim League and senators belonging to the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democratic Alliance] met in Islamabad today.

Later, the leader of the opposition in Senate told newsmen that the meeting decided that the campaign against the integrity of the Senate, as they put it, will not be allowed to succeed. He added they are ready to cooperate with the ruling People's Party government about appropriate changes to the Constitution through the eighth amendment bill.

However, they will oppose the changes meant only to transfer powers from the president to the prime minister.

Cases Against Sind Party Workers To Be Withdrawn

BK1502023989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] The cases filed against workers of various political parties and groups in Sind will be withdrawn. This was announced by Sind Chief Minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah at a news conference in Karachi yesterday.

He said that more than 1,000 cases are being withdrawn which will benefit 8,500 workers of various political parties and groups. However, cases filed against party workers related to murder, attempted murder, robbery, or violation of Islamic law ordinance will not be withdrawn. Pending cases in various tribunals are also being examined.

Editorial Urges Bold Policy on Nuclear Issue

BK1502074989 Lahore JANG in Urdu 17 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "How Long Will the Apologetic Attitude Toward the Nuclear Program Continue?"]

[Text] Talking to the visiting U.S. delegation led by Stephen Solarz, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that Pakistan will set up its own nuclear power plants within the next 10 years. The president said Pakistan badly needs nuclear technology to meet its rapidly increasing energy requirements. He asserted that Pakistan has no plans whatsoever to manufacture nuclear weapons, and the world should trust the word of a democratic government.

Referring to U.S. apprehensions on nuclear proliferation in South Asia, the president said this issue cannot be resolved by resorting to a discriminatory policy. The United States should formulate a regional strategy to deal with the issue.

Viewed from various perspectives, President Ishaq Khan's statement on Pakistan's nuclear program has special significance. The president's remarks that Pakistan will start setting up its own nuclear power plants, God willing, within the next 10 years is particularly encouraging for a patriotic, self-respecting, and confident Pakistani citizen. The self-confidence reflected in the president's announcement will boost the determination and confidence of the entire nation. Moreover, the president has fulfilled his responsibility as the nation's spokesman by saying that Pakistan will never accept a policy based on discrimination in relation to its nuclear program.

However, there is another aspect of the issue which causes us great concern: What difficulty are we facing as a nation that forces us always provide explanations to all and sundry about our nuclear program? Our nuclear program always becomes a topic of discussion whenever any foreign personality visits our country or our leaders go abroad. And in every case, our leaders make timied statements or adopt an apologetic position on this issue. No such explanations have been heard about India's nuclear program so far, nor have Indian leaders been observed to explain their position on the nuclear issue merely to satisfy others.

The fact is that India's progress in nuclear technology and its nuclear intentions are evident to the whole world. India has already carried out a nuclear test. No power of the world can approach the Indian nuclear installations. India is not ready to sign either an international or a regional nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Furthermore, it has rejected out of hand the proposal for making the whole of South Asia and the Indian Ocean a nuclear-free zone. But no one dares point a finger at her nuclear policy. And what we are doing? We start offering explanations about our nuclear program, even to someone who is overflying our territory!

What we have derived from our extremely apologetic and weak nuclear policy is that we failed to do anything so far to overcome the energy problem by developing nuclear technology, despite being maligned by the whole world. Not only has the process of reconstruction and progress been halted, but we have been forced to lag behind in other sectors as well. It is obvious to anyone that all this is the result of our extremely apologetic position regarding our nuclear program.

When we look at the other side, we see India, a sovereign and confident nation, that does not allow anyone to pass comment on its nuclear program. As a result, it is not only making rapid progress in this field on its own, but the United States, the Soviet Union, and many other countries having access to nuclear technology have been forced to cooperate with her.

Who does not know the attitude of Solarz toward Pakistan and its interests? He is considered the most active supporter of the Indian and Zionist lobbies in the United States. He is also called the Senator from India. What is more interesting is that he spends much more energy trying to hurt Pakistani interests than he does in actively working for the protection of Indian interests. Mr Solarz has always been in the forefront of attempts to stop U.S. military and economic assistance to Pakistan, not to mention Pakistan's nuclear program.

But what we are doing? We are opening the book of our explanations on the nuclear issue to the same Mr Solarz. It is true that we are a peace-loving nation and we do not foster any desire to either manufacture nuclear weapons nor to acquire them from any other source. But the question remains: Why do we have to repeat the same explanation over again to the world? Why can we not continue to implement our programs according to our wishes as other independent and sovereign nations are doing?

Commentary on Test Firing of Long-Range Missiles

BK1302043789 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] With the successful launching of indigenously developed surface-to-surface long range missile, Pakistan has achieved a distinct landmark in this advanced field of defense technology. The trial firing of the Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 missiles was conducted with a high degree of accuracy and achieved the predicted range of 80 to 300 km respectively.

The trial has proved the system and with more experience and expertise it should be possible to effect further improvements in it. Besides the surface-to-surface missiles, Pakistan-made multi-barrel rocket launchers were also test fired. A range of 25 km was achieved by these rocket launchers. With refinement the range would expand to 30 km.

The chief of the Army Staff [Mirza Aslam Beg], who witnessed the trial firing of missiles and rocket launchers, described the achievement as a befitting tribute and compliment to the nation, which upholds such ideals of democracy under which national institutions like the Armed Forces grow and attain excellence and height of glory.

The indigenous development and production of long range surface-to-surface missiles would add a great deal to the defense capability of the country's Armed Forces, particularly in view of the fact that other parts in the region had already acquired much more sophisticated military equipment and weapons systems.

While Pakistan does not have aggressive designs against any other country, it has the right as a sovereign nation to safeguard its own territorial integrity by all legitimate means. The successful test firing of Hatf missiles underscores Pakistan's resolve to keep abreast with modern developments and not to be left behind in the field of advanced technology. It should also serve (?as a reminder) to those who do not wish Pakistan well that despite its peaceful intentions and respect for the independence of other states, Pakistan will not lower its own guard lest its commitment to nonuse of force and settlement of outstanding issues through negotiations is mistaken for complacency and weakness.

As pointed out by General Mirza Aslam Beg, the coincidence of the successful test firing of missiles by Pakistan with the liberation of the Afghan people adds a new dimension to the distinction achieved by the Pakistani technologists. It underlines boldly the fact that only those people can safeguard their freedom and national pride who are willing to put in hard work for it and who are prepared to make sacrifices for it.

Also the fact should not be lost sight of that with the virtual explosion of scientific knowledge around us no advance is enormous and no distinction too great. Pakistan can therefore ill-afford to rest content with the achievements made by it so far and constantly strive for even better goals, so that it is able to maintain a position of dignity and honor in the comity of nations.

Sri Lanka

Reportage on General Elections, Violence

24 Killed on Election Eve

BK1402163889 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Twenty-four people are reported killed on the eve of Sri Lanka's first general elections in 12 years. Police said in Colombo that 19 supporters of various political parties were killed in southern Sri Lanka by suspected Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna extremists. Five LTTE militants were also killed in Jaffna. [passage omitted]

'At Least' 6 Killed by JVP

BK1502061289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP) - At least six people were killed in Sri Lanka Wednesday as the nation's first parliamentary elections in 11 years got under way, police sources here said.

Suspected anti-government Sinhalese militants opened fire at a polling station in Bandarawela District in the southeast, killing an election official, an office boy and a member of the Home Guards, the sources said.

No details were immediately available, but the attack was blamed on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), a militant Sinhalese rebel group which has vowed to disrupt the polls.

Three others were killed in election-related violence elsewhere, the sources added.

Some 9.43 million Sri Lankans are eligible to vote in the elections for a 225-seat Parliament.

'Heavy Polling' Reported

BK1502074889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Feb 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, heavy polling is reported in the Jaffna Peninsula in the parliamentary elections today. The AIR correspondent, Jairaj, reports from Jaffna that about 40 percent of votes will be polled by noon in the Nallur area.

Muslim areas like Navanturai and (More Street) recorded more than 50 percent. Our correspondent says more people are still turning up and polling is likely to be very heavy in the Jaffna Peninsula, considered once the bastion of the LTTE. In a number of polling stations, women outnumbered men.

Voting Heavy in Major Towns

BK1502093689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0926 GMT 15 Feb 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP)—Widespread violence left 34 people dead and dozens wounded across Sri Lanka as the strife-torn nation went to the polls Wednesday to elect a new national parliament under tight security, police said.

Nine people, including an election official and two voters, were killed in six attacks Wednesday, while 25 people died in poll-related violence overnight Tuesday, police sources said.

Dozens of people were wounded in these and other attacks which officials said were aimed at scaring away voters.

Most incidents occurred in the island's south, a stronghold of the anti-government Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), which has vowed to sabotage the elections, the country's first parliamentary polls in 11 years.

A polling station was set on fire in central Kandy and polling officials came under heavy gunfire in the south. But voting resumed in both places after a brief interruption, officials here said.

The violence occurred despite tight security steps taken by the government to ensure peaceful polling following threats from the JVP and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the country's dominant Tamil militant group, to disrupt the polls.

Hundreds of political activists and 14 candidates have been killed since nominations closed early last month, with the LTTE and JVP blamed for most of the deaths.

Sri Lanka's 30,000 police force and 40,000 defence personnel, besides Indian troops in Tamil areas, were placed on maximum alert ahead of the elections.

Witnesses reported long queues outside polling stations in and around Colombo, while election officials reported heavy polling in Tamil districts and low to heavy polling in areas populated by the majority Sinhalese community.

Deputy Election Commissioner Lakshman Perera said more than 70 per cent of the electorate had voted in the Tamil areas of north and east, where India has 45,000-50,000 troops under a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

He said voting was brisk and heavy in all major towns and cities, elsewhere though it was reportedly poor in outlying villages.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa, 64, who cast his ballot here, was among the early voters and told reporters later that he expected his countrymen to defy rebel appeals to boycott the polls.

Some 9.43 million Sri Lankans are eligible to vote for a 225-member parliament for a six-year term, choosing from 1,396 candidates from 19 political parties and groups.

The two main parties contesting the polls are Mr. Premadasa's ruling United National Party (UNP), which came to power in 1977, and the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) of former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike.

Balloting ends at 4 p.m. (1030 GMT) Wednesday. Counting of votes will begin later Wednesday, and the first results are expected early Thursday.

The JVP and LTTE had issued similar boycott calls for a December 19 presidential election, which was marked by low turnout and violence which left at least 30 people dead on polling day.

Suspected JVP members shot dead a former Colombo District minister's son at Grandpass District here Wednesday and killed two voters in southern Kalutara town soon after voting began at 7 a.m. (0130 GMT), police sources said.

The group earlier fired at a polling station in central Bandarawela District, killing an election official, an assistant and a member of the home guard.

JVP militants also bombed a shop at Moratuwa, near here, killing a man, while security forces shot dead two JVP members in two other areas around the same time Wednesday, the sources said.

Overnight, JVP gunmen in the south fired at a bus transporting Buddhist pilgrims, killing two passengers, and gunned down nine political activists in nearby villages.

In other incidents late Tuesday, six people were killed in Kandy while police found six bullet-ridden bodies at Panadura, 25 kilometres (15 miles) south of here.

Two others were reportedly shot dead near Colombo by the JVP, the sources said.

More than a dozen bomb blasts were reported in known JVP strongholds, and security sources said they were obviously aimed at scaring away voters.

Turnout 'Good,' Voting 'Brisk'

BK1502133989 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1255 GMT 15 Feb 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (LANKAPUVATH)—The turnout at the parliamentary general election polls held today was described by the Elections Department as being good.

Deputy Commissioner of Elections Lakshman Perera told LANKAPUVATH that polling was high in the Northeastern Province. In the towns too, voting was brisk. According to Election Department's preliminary estimates polling was between 60 and 65 per cent.

There were a few sporadic incidents reported, among them an attack on the police post at Baddegana in the outskirts of the city at 0520 hours local time by subversives. In the shootout one subversive was killed.

In another subversives attack on a polling station this morning in Badulla, 220 kilometres from Colombo, a soldier and two members of the Election Department's staff were killed.

Meanwhile, Jayantha Mallimarachchi, a municipal council member who is a son of a former Colombo District minister, Weerasinghe Mallimarachchi, was shot dead in Grandpass Colombo today.

Mobile patrols by the security forces was very much in evidence as the authorities tightened the security net against possible attempts by subversives to create situations that would keep voters away.

A report received from the southern district of Matara states that two soldiers including an officer were shot dead by subversives this afternoon while on mobile patrol at Hakmana. The driver of the vehicle and another soldier were wounded.

Meanwhile, subversives opened fire at a United National Party candidate at a polling booth at Gandara. The security forces returned the fire causing the subversives to flee.

Elections Commissioner Chandrananda de Silva said that the first results could be expected after midnight. The first stage would be to announce the results of each electoral district as it was known under the previous electoral system.

Thereafter the total tally of the parties in the current districts would be announced along with the number of seats won by each party. The votes cast on behalf of each candidate would be announced thereafter.